



The UC3909 Evaluation Pack





Switchmode Lead-Acid Battery Charger

FEATURES

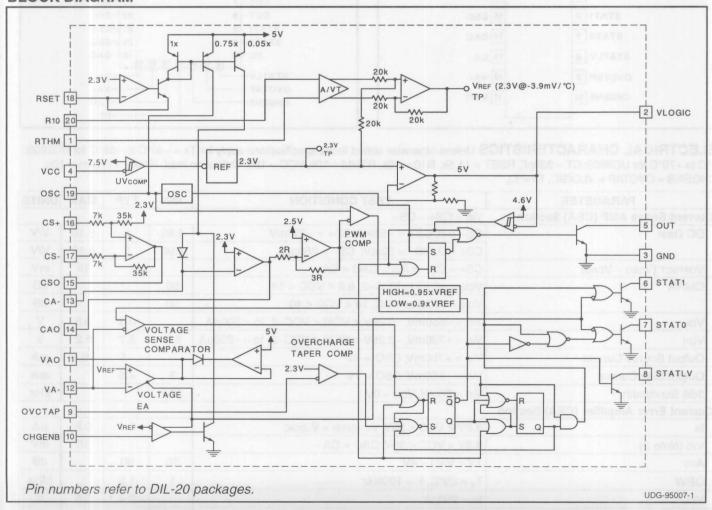
- Accurate and Efficient Control of Battery Charging
- Average Current Mode Control from Trickle to Overcharge
- Resistor Programmable Charge Currents
- Thermistor Interface Tracks
 Battery Requirements Over

 Temperature
- Output Status Bits Report on Four Internal Charge States
- Undervoltage Lockout Monitors VCC and VREF

DESCRIPTION

The UC3909 family of Switchmode Lead-Acid Battery Chargers accurately controls lead acid battery charging with a highly efficient average current mode control loop. This chip combines charge state logic with average current PWM control circuitry. Charge state logic commands current or voltage control depending on the charge state. The chip includes undervoltage lockout circuitry to insure sufficient supply voltage is present before output switching starts. Additional circuit blocks include a differential current sense amplifier, a 1.5% voltage reference, a -3.9mV/°C thermistor linearization circuit, voltage and current error amplifiers, a PWM oscillator, a PWM comparator, a PWM latch, charge state decode bits, and a 100mA open collector output driver.

BLOCK DIAGRAM

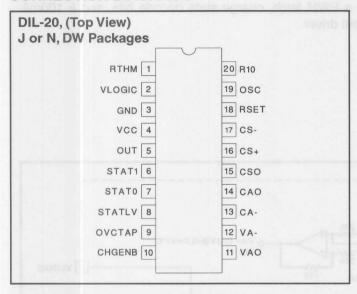


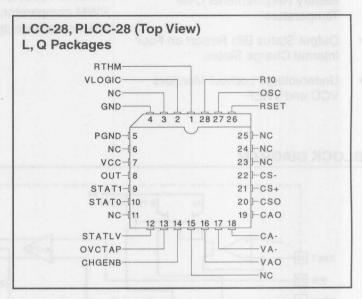
ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

Supply Voltage (VCC), OUT, STAT0, STAT1	40V
Output Current Sink	0.1A
CS+, CS	0.4 to VCC (Note 1)
Remaining Pin Voltages	–0.3V to 9V
Storage Temperature	65°C to +150°C
Junction Temperature	55°C to +150°C
Lead Temperature (Soldering, 10 sec.)	
All currents are positive into, negative out of t	
Consult Packaging Section of Databook for the considerations of packages.	hermal limitations and

Note 1: Voltages more negative than -0.4V can be tolerated if current is limited to 50mA.

CONNECTION DIAGRAMS





ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS Unless otherwise stated these specifications apply for Ta = -40°C to +85°C for UC2909; 0°C to +70°C for UC3909; CT = 330pF, RSET = 11.5k, R10 = 10k, RTHM = 10k, VCC = 15V, Output no load, RSTAT0 = RSTAT1 = 10k, CHGENB = OVCTAP = VLOGIC, Ta = TJ.

PARAMETER	TEST CONDITION	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNITS
Current Sense AMP (CSA) Section	$V_{ID} = CS + - CS -$		1 88	M. Del	Lan II
DC Gain	CS-=0, $CS+=-50$ mV; $CS+=-250$ mV	4.90	5	5.10	V/V
	CS+ = 0, $CS- = 50mV$; $CS- = 250mV$	4.90	5	5.10	V/V
VOFFSET (VCSO - VCAO)	CS+ = CS- = 2.3V, CAO = CA-			15	mV
CMRR	Vcm = -0.25 to VCC-2, 8.8 < VCC < 14	50			dB
	$V_{CM} = -0.25$ to VCC, $14 < VCC < 40$	50			dB
Vol	$V_{ID} = -550 \text{mV}, -0.25 \text{V} < VCM < VCC-2, Io = 500 \mu A$		0.3	0.6	V
Voн	$V_{ID} = +700 \text{mV}, -0.25 \text{V} < VCM < VCC-2, Io = -250 \mu A$	5.2	5.7	6.2	V
Output Source Current	VID = +700mV, CSO = 4V		-1	-0.5	mA
Output Sink Current	VID = -550mV, CSO = 1V	3	4.5		mA
3dB Bandwidth	VID = 90mV, VCM = 0V	200			kHz
Current Error Amplifier (CEA) Sec	tion		AT-		[maran
Ів	8.8V < VCC < 35V, VCHGENB = VLOGIC		0.1	0.8	μА
Vio (Note 2)	8.8V < VCC < 35V, CAO = CA-			10	mV
Avo	1V < VAO < 4V	60	90		dB
GBW	T _J = 25°C, F = 100kHz	1	1.5		MHz
Vol	Ιο = 250μΑ		0.4	0.6	V
Voн	Io = -5mA	4.5	5		V

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (cont.) Unless otherwise stated these specifications apply for Ta = -40°C to +85°C for UC2909; 0°C to +70°C for UC3909; CT = 330pF, RSET = 11.5k, R10 = 10k, RTHM = 10k, VCC = 15V, Output no load, RSTAT0 = RSTAT1 = 10k, CHGENB = OVCTAP = VLOGIC, Ta = TJ.

PARAMETER	TEST CONDITION	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNITS
Current Error Amplifier (CEA) Section			nouse		THE PARTY
Output Source Current	CAO = 4V		-25	-12	mA
Output Sink Current	CAO=1V	2	3	-	μΑ
ICA-, ITRCK_CONTROL	VCHGENB = GND	8.5	10	11.5	μΑ
Voltage Error Amplifier (VEA) Section	V86 = 736V			HILD 6	\$180J
lB .	Total Bias Current; Regulating Level	nohaelk	0.1	1	μΑ
Vio (VAO – VREF) (Note 2)	8.8V < VCC < 35V, VCM = 2.3V, VAO = VA-		1.2	Irez mu	mV
Avo	1V < CAO < 4V	60	90	lav nol	dB
GBW	T _J = 25°C, F = 100kHz	0.250	0.500	muQ eç	MHz
Vol	$Io = 500\mu A$	Jarupa O	0.4	0.6	V
Voн	$Io = -500\mu A$	4.75	5	5.25	V
Output Source Current	VAO = 4V	-2	-1	Nev hel	mA
Output Sink Current	VAO = 1V	2	2.5	DETTIO 90	mA
VAO Leakage: High Impedance State	VCHGENB = GND, STAT0 = 0 & STAT1 = 0, VAO = 2.3V	-1		1	μΑ
Pulse Width Modulator Section			Lan Cau	September	(HIND)
Maximum Duty Cycle	CAO = 0.6V	90	95	100	%
Modulator Gain	CAO = 2.5V, 3.2V	63	71	80	%/V
OSC Peak	Call to nexprise visiting meditality or grade the fig.		3	(6	V
OSC Valley	V 30 × 0.3V		1		V
Oscillator Section (OSC)	rokacing with internet protection.	a otron	d patrian	em el O	NS als
Frequency	8.8V < VCC < 35V	198	220	242	kHz
Thermistor Derived Reference Section	n VID = VRTHM - VR10				
Initial Accuracy, VAO (RTHM = 10k)	VID = 0, R10 = RTHM = 10k (Note 3)	2.2655	2.3	2.3345	V
	VID = 0, R10 = RTHM =10k, -40°C ≤ TA < 0°C (Note 3)	2.254	2.3	2.346	V
Line Regulation	VCC = 8.8V to 35V	aut of t	3	10	mV
VAO	RTHM = 138k, R10 = 10k	2.458	2.495	2.532	V
	RTHM = 138k, R10 = 10k, -40°C ≤ Ta < 0°C	2.445	2.495	2.545	V
	RTHM = 33.63k, R10 = 10k	2.362	2.398	2.434	V
	DTHM - 33 63k D10 - 10k 40°C < Ta < 0°C	2.350	2.398	2.446	V
	RTHM = 1.014k, R10 = 10k	2.035	2.066	2.097	V
	RTHM = 1.014k, R10 = 10k, -40°C ≤ Ta < 0°C	2.025	2.066	2.107	V
Charge Enable Comparator Section (1 = 10 = 0			and the same
Threshold Voltage	As a function of VA-	0.99	1	1.01	V/V
Input Bias Current	CHGENB = 2.3V	-0.5	-0.1		μА
Voltage Sense Comparator Section (\)		1300 D	7 7 7 9 11	917 18	1 1
Threshold Voltage	STAT0 = 0, STAT1 = 0, Function of VREF	0.945	0.95	0.955	V/V
ground programs use papillator		0.895	0.9	0.905	V/V
Over Charge Taper Current Comparat		101			
Threshold Voltage	Function of 2.3V REF, CA- = CAO	0.99	1	1.01	V/V
Input Bias Current	OVCTAP = 2.3V	-0.5	-0.1		μА
Logic 5V Reference Section (VLOGIC		101 1010	a money	lales el	I (CIP)
VLOGIC	VCC = 15V	4.875	5.0	5.125	V
Line Regulation	8.8V < VCC < 35V	RYS BI W	3	15	mV
Load Regulation	0 < lo < 10mA	aprili	3	15	mV
Reference Comparator Turn-on	pered to the fleat thresh-	J earl :	nemun	uglug	110
Threshold	611.0	.010	4.3	4.8	V
Short Circuit Current	VREF = 0V	30	50	80	mA

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (cont.) Unless otherwise stated these specifications apply for TA = -40°C to +85°C for UC2909; 0°C to +70°C for UC3909; CT = 330pF, RSET = 11.5k, R10 = 10k, RTHM = 10k, VCC = 15V, Output no load, RSTAT0 = RSTAT1 = 10k, CHGENB = OVCTAP = VLOGIC, TA = TJ.

PARAMETER	TEST CONDITION	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNITS
Output Stage Section	Circo) nolio	ICEA) Se	valifign	Error A	inemus
Isink Continuous	V#=0/3		50	Source	mA
IPEAK	CAO-3Y		100	Sintri S	mA
Vol	Io = 50mA		1	1.3	V
Leakage Current	VOUT = 35V	#8 (ASV)	- Uritign	25	μА
STAT0 & STAT1 Open Collector O	utputs Section				5 6
Maximum Sink Current	Vout = 8.8V	6	10	W-O	mA
Saturation Voltage	IOUT = 5mA		0.1	0.45	V
Leakage Current	Vout = 35V			25	μА
STATLV Open Collector Outputs	Section				JoV
Maximum Sink Current	Vout = 5V	2.5	5		mA
Saturation Voltage	IOUT = 2mA		0.1	0.45	V
Leakage current	VOUT = 5V		Book	3	μΑ
UVLO Section	SER VERSON STATE & G=CHD_STATE & G VACE & 2.3V	& sonstrar	net degl-	seprotes	L OAV
Turn-on Threshold		6.8	7.8	8.8	V
Hysteresis	70:0 = 0AO	100	300	500	mV
Icc Section	CAD - 2.5vt alov			tina tot	nfutroli
Icc (run)	See Graph, typical temperature variation of ICC		13	19	mA
Icc (off)	VCC = 6.5V		2	Vesite	mA

Note 2: VIO is measured prior to packaging with internal probe pad.

Note 3: Thermistor initial accuracy is measured and trimmed with respect to VAO; VAO = VA-.

PIN DESCRIPTIONS

CA-: The inverting input to the current error amplifier.

CAO: The output of the current error amplifier which is internally clamped to approximately 4V. It is internally connected to the inverting input of the PWM comparator.

CS-, CS+: The inverting and non-inverting inputs to the current sense amplifier. This amplifier has a fixed gain of five.

CSO: The output of the current sense amplifier which is internally clamped to approximately 5.7V.

CHGENB: The input to a comparator that detects when battery voltage is low and places the charger in a trickle charge state. The charge enable comparator makes the output of the voltage error amplifier a high impedance while forcing a fixed $10\mu A$ into CA- to set the trickle charge current.

GND: The reference point for the internal reference, all thresholds, and the return for the remainder of the device. The output sink transistor is wired directly to this pin.

OVCTAP: The overcharge current taper pin detects when the output current has tapered to the float threshold in the overcharge state.

OSC: The oscillator ramp pin which has a capacitor (CT) to ground. The ramp oscillates between approximately 1.0V to 3.0V and the frequency is approximated by:

frequency
$$\approx \frac{1}{1.2 \bullet \text{CT} \bullet \text{RSET}}$$

OUT: The output of the PWM driver which consists of an open collector output transistor with 100mA sink capability.

R10: Input used to establish a differential voltage corresponding to the temperature of the thermistor. Connect a 10k resistor to ground from this point.

RSET: A resistor to ground programs the oscillator charge current and the trickle control current for the oscillator ramp.

The oscillator charge current is approximately

The trickle control current (ITRCK_CONTROL) is approximately

RTHM: A 10k thermistor is connected to ground and is thermally connected to the battery. The resistance will vary exponentially over temperature and its change is used to vary the internal 2.3V reference by -3.9mV/°C. The recommended thermistor for this function is part number L1005-5744-103-D1, Keystone Carbon Company, St. Marys, PA.

STAT0: This open collector pin is the first decode bit used to decode the charge states.

STAT1: This open collector pin is the second decode bit used to decode the charge states.

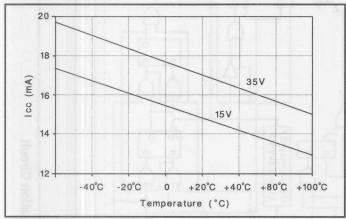


Figure 1. lcc vs. Temperature

STATLV: This bit is high when the charger is in the float state.

VA-: The inverting input to the voltage error amplifier.

VAO: The output of the voltage error amplifier. The upper output clamp voltage of this amplifier is 5V.

VCC: The input voltage to the chip. The chip is operational between 7.5V and 40V and should be bypassed with a $1\mu F$ capacitor. A typical Icc vs. temperature is shown in Figure 1.

VLOGIC: The precision reference voltage. It should be bypassed with a $0.1\mu F$ capacitor.

Charge State Decode Chart:

STATO and STAT1 are open collector outputs. The output is approximately 0.2V for a logic 0.

	STAT1	STAT0
Trickle Charge	0	0
Bulk Charge	0	1
Over Charge	1	0
Float Charge	1	1

APPLICATION INFORMATION

A Block Diagram of the UC3909 is shown on the first page, while a Typical Application Circuit is shown in Figure 2. The circuit in Figure 2 requires a DC input voltage between 12V and 40V.

The UC3909 uses a voltage control loop with average current limiting to precisely control the charge rate of a lead-acid battery. The small increase in complexity of average current limiting is offset by the relative simplicity of the control loop design.

CONTROL LOOP:

Current Sense Amplifier:

This amplifier measures the voltage across the sense resistor RS with a fixed gain of five and an offset voltage of 2.3V. This voltage is proportional to the battery current. The most positive voltage end of RS is connected to CS- ensuring the correct polarity going into the PWM comparator.

CSO = 2.3V when there is zero battery current.

RS is chosen by dividing 350mV by the maximum allowable load current. A smaller value for RS can be chosen

to reduce power dissipation.

Maximum Charge Current, IBULK, is set by knowing the maximum voltage error amplifier output, VoH = 5V, the maximum allowable drop across RS, and setting the resistors RG1 and RG2 such that;

(1)
$$\frac{\text{RG1}}{\text{RG2}} = \frac{5 \cdot \text{VRS}}{\text{VLOGIC} - \text{CA}} = \frac{5 \cdot \text{VRS}}{5\text{V} - 2.3\text{V}}$$
$$= \frac{5 \cdot \text{VRS}}{2.7\text{V}} = 1.852 \cdot \text{IBULK} \cdot \text{RS}$$

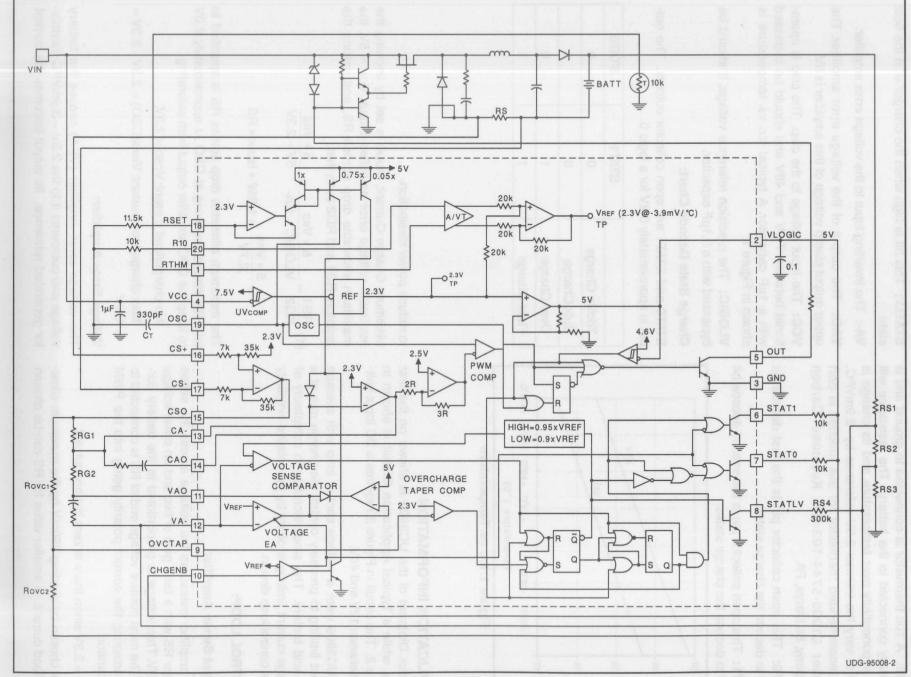
The maximum allowable drop across RS is specified to limit the maximum swing at CSO to approximately 2.0V to keep the CSO amplifier output from saturating.

No charge/load current: Vcso = 2.3V,

Max charge/load current: VMAX(CSO) = 2.3V - 2.0V = 0.3V

Voltage Error Amplifier:

The voltage error amplifier (VEA) senses the battery voltage and compares it to the $2.3V-3.9mV/^{\circ}C$ thermistor generated reference. Its output becomes the current



0

Figure 2. Typical Application Circuit

command signal and is summed with the current sense amplifier output. A 5.0V voltage error amplifier upper clamp limits maximum load current. During the trickle charge state, the voltage amplifier output is opened (high impedance output) by the charge enable comparator. A trickle bias current is summed into the CA- input which sets the maximum trickle charge current.

The VEA, VOH = 5V clamp saturates the voltage loop and consequently limits the charge current as stated in Equation 1.

During the trickle bias state the maximum allowable charge current (ITC) is similarly determined:

(2) ITC =
$$\frac{ITRCK_CONTROL \bullet RG1}{RS \bullet 5}$$

ITRCK_CONTROL is the fixed control current into CA-. ITRCK_CONTROL is $10\mu A$ when RSET = 11.5k. See RSET pin description for equation.

Current Error Amplifier:

The current error amplifier (CA) compares the output of the current sense amplifier to the output of the voltage error amplifier. The output of the CA forces a PWM duty cycle which results in the correct average battery current. With integral compensation, the CA will have a very high DC current gain, resulting in effectively no average DC current error. For stability purposes, the high frequency gain of the CA must be designed such that the magnitude of the down slope of the CA output signal is less than or equal to the magnitude of the up slope of the PWM ramp.

CHARGE ALGORITHM

Refer to Figure 3 in UC3906 Data Sheet in the data book.

A) Trickle Charge State STAT0 = STAT1 = STATLV = logic 0

When CHGNB is less than VREF (2.3V – 3.9mV/°C), STATLV is forced low. This decreases the sense voltage divider ratio, forcing the battery to overcharge (VOC).

(3)
$$VOC = (VREF) \frac{(RS1 + RS2 + RS3 || RS4)}{(RS3 || RS4)}$$

During the trickle charge state, the output of the voltage error amplifier is high impedance. The trickle control current is directed into the CA- pin setting the maximum trickle charge current. The trickle charge current is defined in Equation 2.

B) Bulk Charge State STAT1 = STATLV = logic 0, STAT0 = logic 1

As the battery charges, the UC3909 will transition from trickle to bulk charge when CHGENB becomes greater than 2.3V. The transition equation is

$$V_T = V_{REF} \bullet \frac{(RS1 + RS2 + RS3 || RS4)}{(RS2 + RS3 || RS4)}$$

STATLV is still driven low.

During the bulk charge state, the voltage error amplifier is now operational and is commanding maximum charge current (IBULK) set by Equation 1. The voltage loop attempts to force the battery to VOC.

C) Overcharge State STAT0 = STATLV = logic 0, STAT1 = logic 1

The battery voltage surpasses 95% of VOC indicating the UC3909 is in its overcharge state.

During the overcharge charge state, the voltage loop becomes stable and the charge current begins to taper off. As the charge current tapers off, the voltage at CSO increases toward its null point of 2.3V. The center connection of the two resistors between CSO and VLOGIC sets the overcurrent taper threshold (OVCTAP). Knowing the desired overcharge terminate current (Ioct), the resistors Rovc1 and Rovc2 can be calculated by choosing a value of Rovc2 and using the following equation:

D) Float State STAT0 = STAT1 = STATLV = logic 1

The battery charge current tapers below its OVCTAP threshold, and forces STATLV high increasing the voltage sense divider ratio. The voltage loop now forces the battery charger to regulate at its float state voltage (VF).

(5)
$$V_F = (V_{REF}) \frac{(RS1 + RS2 + RS3)}{RS3}$$

If the load drains the battery to less than 90% of VF, the charger goes back to the bulk charge state, STATE 1.

OFF LINE APPLICATIONS

For off line charge applications, either Figure 3 or Figure 4 can be used as a baseline. Figure 3 has the advantage of high frequency operation resulting in a small isolation transformer. Figure 4 is a simpler design, but at the expense of larger magnetics.

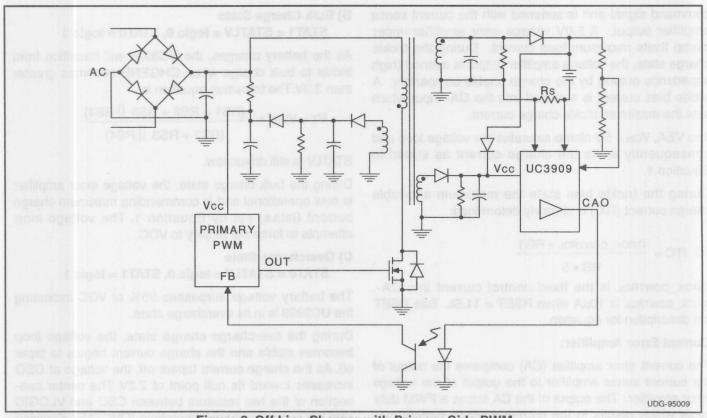


Figure 3. Off Line Charger with Primary Side PWM

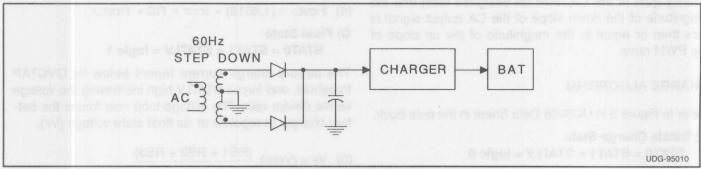


Figure 4. Isolated Off Line Charger

Laszlo Balogh Applications Engineer Unitrode Corporation

IMPLEMENTING MULTI-STATE CHARGE ALGORITHM WITH THE UC3909 SWITCHMODE LEAD-ACID BATTERY CHARGER CONTROLLER



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IMPLEMENTING MULTI-STATE CHARGE ALGORITHM WITH THE UC3909 SWITCHMODE LEAD-ACID BATTERY CHARGER CONTROLLER

By Laszlo Balogh

INTRODUCTION

Applications of lead-acid batteries for primary as well as backup power sources has been increased significantly. The reasons behind this growth are the continuously improving battery technology which provides higher and higher power densities, and the increased demand for wireless operation of different electronic devices and tools. Manufacturers of these equipment are frequently challenged to provide solutions for quick and efficient recharge of the cells and to maximize the capacity and life of the battery.

Although the task sounds simple, satisfying the various requirements associated with charging and maintaining lead-acid batteries often requires considerable intelligence from the battery charger circuit. The implementation of a well optimized charging process requires complex control circuitry, such as microprocessors, DSP chips or state machine type of controllers. Usually, these solutions require custom components, and significant hardware and software development time. The cost of these solutions are penalized, by the higher cost and software of the digital controller, interfacing to the analog part of the circuit, in addition to the increased part count and consequently higher manufacturing expense.

This Application Note will introduce a new, dedicated analog controller. The UC3909 Switchmode Lead-Acid Battery Charger integrated circuit provides a low cost solution to battery charging, without sacrificing the performance of the system.

Additionally, the paper will guide users, whose primary expertise is not switchmode power supply design, how to devise state of the art, multi-state battery charger, using the new IC. The step by step instructions incorporated in this Application Note will provide exact component values, reducing the time of the paper design to merely a few minutes.

BASICS OF LEAD-ACID BATTERIES

In order to efficiently discuss battery properties, some of the common terms used in the battery industry have to be defined.

Ampere-Hour (Ah) - is a measurement of electric charge computed as the integral product of current (in Amperes) and time (in hours).

Capacity - is the ability of the battery to store and discharge a given quantity of current over a specified period of time. The capacity of the battery is expressed in Ampere-Hours (Ah). A cell's capacity is a function of the discharge current and usually increases with lower current levels. The capacity of the battery listed in the datasheet usually corresponds to the measured capacity at C/10 discharge rate.

C Rate - is the charge or discharge current of the battery expressed in multiples of the rated capacity. For example, a 2.5Ah cell will provide 250mA for 10 hours. The C rate in this particular case is C/10. In the real world, however, a cell does not maintain the same rated capacity at all C rates.

Self Discharge - is the loss of useful capacity of a cell on storage due to internal chemical action.

Deep Discharge - is the discharge of the battery below the specified cutoff voltage, typically 1.7V-1.9V per cell at 25°C depending on the C rate, before the battery is recharged. It happens usually upon withdrawal at least 80% of the rated capacity of the cells.

Constant Voltage Charge - is a charging technique during which the voltage across the battery terminals is regulated while the charge current varies according to the state of charge of the battery.

Constant Current Charge - is a charging method during which the current through the battery is maintained at a steady state value while the cell voltages will vary according to the state of charge of the battery.

Trickle-Charge - is a constant current charge of the battery. In this mode, a low current, typically in the range of C/100 or lower is applied to the battery to raise the voltage to the deep discharge threshold (cutoff voltage), a level corresponding to near zero capacity. The trickle charge current has to be determined to assure continuous operation without damaging the cells.

Bulk-Charge - is also a constant current mode of operation, to quickly replenish the charge to the battery. The battery manufacturers define the bulk charge current as the maximum charge current allowed for the cells. It can be applied to the batteries if their voltage is between the deep discharge and the over-charge limits. Typical bulk charge current varies between C/5 and 2·C depending on manufacturers and battery types.

Over-Charge - the term describes the chemical reactions taking place when the majority of the lead-sulfate has already been converted to lead, resulting in the generation of hydrogen and oxygen. The beginning of the over-charge reactions depends on the C rate, and it is indicated by the sharp rise in cell voltage as it is illustrated in Figure 1.

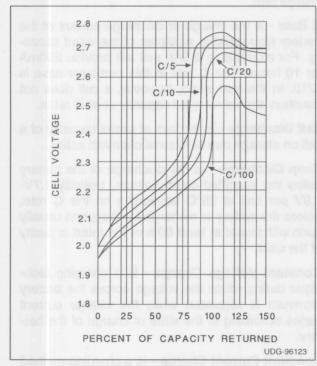


Figure 1. Typical over-charge characteristic at different charge rates.

For over-charge to coincide with the 100% return of capacity, the charge rate must be less than C/100. For higher charge rates, over-charge of lead-acid batteries is necessary to return the full capacity.

In a controlled **over-charge mode**, a constant voltage is applied. Its value is typically set between 2.45 V/cell and 2.65 V/cell, again depending on the C rate. Improper selection of the over-charge voltage will eventually result in dehydration of the battery and reducing its useful life span.

Float-Charge - is a constant voltage charge of the battery, after completing the charging process. This voltage maintains the capacity of the battery against self discharge. Even though providing a fixed output voltage is a simple task, to find the precise value of the float voltage has a profound effect on battery performance. For instance, 5% deviation from the optimum cell voltage in float mode, could result approximately 30% difference in the available capacity of the battery. Furthermore, the battery's temperature coefficient of typically -3.9mV/°C per cell, adds complication. If the float voltage is not compensated according to the battery temperature, loss of capacity will occur below the design temperature, and uncontrolled over-charging with degradation in life will happen at elevated temperature.

BATTERY CHARGER BASICS

What differentiates a battery charger from a conventional power supply is the capability to satisfy the unique requirements of the battery. Lead-acid battery chargers typically have two tasks to accomplish. The most important is to restore capacity as quickly as possible. The second one is to maintain capacity by compensating for self discharge and ambient temperature variations.

There are two fundamentally different charging methods for lead-acid batteries. In constant voltage charge, the voltage across the battery terminals is constant and the condition of the battery determines the charge current. Constant voltage charge is most popular in float mode application. The charging process is usually terminated after a certain time limit is reached.

Another technique is constant current charge, which is often used in cyclic applications because it recharges the battery in a relatively short time. As opposed to constant voltage charge, the constant current charge automatically equalizes the charge in the series cells. There are many varia-

tions of the two basic methods, well suited for switchmode battery charger circuits. Considering that well designed switchmode power converters are inherently current limited, the combination of constant current and constant voltage charge is an obvious choice.

The best performance of the lead-acid cells can be achieved using a four state charge algorithm. This method integrates the advantages of the constant current charge to quickly and safely recharge and equalize the lead-acid cells, with the constant voltage charge to perform controlled over-charge and to retain the battery's full charge capacity in float mode applications. The carefully tailored charging procedure maximizes the capacity and life expectancy of the battery.

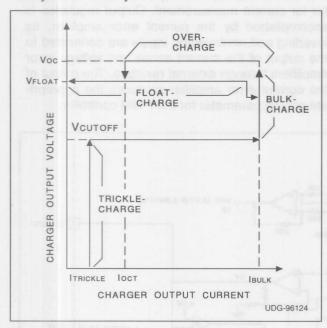


Figure 2. Four-state charge algorithm

The four states of the charger's operation are trickle charge, bulk charge, over-charge and float charge, as they are shown in Figure 2. Assuming a fully discharged battery, the charger sequences through the states as follows:

State 1: Trickle Charge

If the battery voltage is below the cutoff voltage, the charger will apply the preset trickle charge current (I_{TRICKLE}). In case of a healthy battery, as the charge is slowly restored, the voltage will increase towards the nominal range until it reaches the cutoff voltage. At that point the charger will advance to the next state, bulk charging.

In case of a damaged battery, e.g. one or more cells are shorted or the internal leakage current of the battery is increased above the trickle current value, the low value of the trickle charge current ensures safe operation of the system. In this case the battery voltage will stay below the deep discharge threshold (V_{CUTOFF}) preventing the charger from proceeding to the bulk charge mode.

When the battery voltage is above the cutoff voltage at the beginning of the charge cycle, the trickle charge state is skipped and the charger starts with the bulk charge mode.

State 2: Bulk Charge

In this mode the maximum allowable current (I_{BULK}) charges the battery. During this time, the majority of the battery capacity is restored as quickly as possible. The bulk charge mode is terminated when the battery voltage reaches the over-charge voltage level (V_{OC}) .

State 3: Over-Charge

Controlled over-charge follows bulk charging to restore full capacity in a minimum amount of time. During the over-charge period, the battery voltage is regulated. The initial current value equals the bulk charge current, and as the battery approaches its full capacity the charge current tapers off. When the charge current becomes sufficiently low (I_{OCT}), the charging process is essentially finished and the charger switches over to float charge. The current threshold, I_{OCT}, is user programmable and is typically equals I_{BULK}/5.

State 4: Float Charge

This mode is only applicable when the battery is used as a backup power source. The charger will maintain full capacity of the battery by applying a temperature compensated DC voltage across its terminals. In the float mode, the charger will deliver whatever current is needed to compensate for self discharge and might supply the prospective load up to the bulk charge current level. If the primary power source is lost or if the load current exceeds the bulk current limit, the battery will supply the load current. When the battery voltage drops to 90% of the desired float voltage, the operation will revert to the bulk charge state.

The ultimate lead-acid battery charger will combine the above described four state charge algorithm, and particularly at higher output currents, a switchmode power converter. The implementation of a charger of this type usually requires several

integrated circuits. To minimize cost as well as complexity, a new integrated circuit had been developed to provide as much functionality and design flexibility as possible, while achieving these requirements.

THE UC3909 BLOCK DIAGRAM

The UC3909 Switchmode Lead-Acid Battery Charger controller combines the precision sensing and control of battery voltage and current, logic to sequence the charger through its various modes of operation, and the control and supervisory functions of a switching power supply. The integrated circuit comprises of two major sections. A dashed line shown in the middle of Figure 3 divides the circuit into two functional subsections. The PWM control circuit is commanded by the charge state logic depending on the condition of the battery.

The charge state logic is shown in the lower right corner of the block diagram, which is composed of several digital gates. It sequences the charger through the four possible states of operation depending on the battery voltage. Information about the actual operating mode of the charger is also provided. The status information can be easily interfaced to any logic family due to the open collector structure of the outputs of pin STATO, STAT1, and STATLV. (See the datasheet for detailed pin descriptions.)

The precision voltage and current sensing circuits are shown in the lower left corner of the block diagram. The battery voltage is compared to the temperature compensated reference voltage by the voltage error amplifier and charge enable comparator. Accurate sensing of the charge current is achieved by the uncommitted current sense amplifier, connected to the CS+, CS- and CSO pins. The use of this amplifier requires a low value resistor for current measurement. Output regulation is accomplished by the current error amplifier. Its inverting and noninverting inputs are connected to the output of the current sense and voltage error amplifiers through external resistors. The output of the current error amplifier produces the appropriate control parameter for the PWM controller.

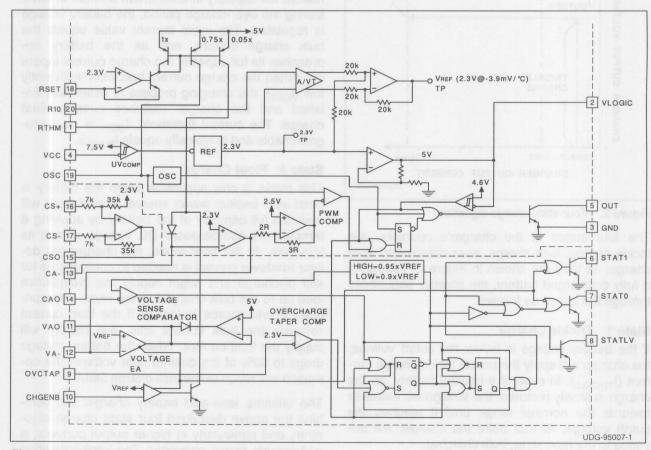


Figure 3. UC3909 Block Diagram

The PWM control section consists of a fast comparator, clock generator, latch and an open collector drive stage. The comparator circuit compares the output of the current error amplifier to the sawtooth derived from the timing capacitor waveform. A latch is set by the clock and reset by the comparator circuit in every switching cycle modulating the pulse width appearing at the output of the controller. This modulation of the output pulse width makes output voltage and output current regulation possible.

The remaining part of the block diagram performs numerous housekeeping functions, such as undervoltage lockout, internal bias and reference generation, temperature sensor linearization and compensation of the internal voltage reference according to the battery temperature.

UC3909 DEMONSTRATION CIRCUIT

To illustrate the capabilities of the new controller, a full featured, switchmode battery charger circuit has been developed and built for evaluation purposes.

The power stage is based on a simple buck topology, reflecting the most common solution used in battery chargers today. The buck converter offers size reduction and high efficiency, two important advantages of switchmode power conversion. Practical output power of this converter type is below 500W. In the case of off-line chargers, line isolation can be provided by 60Hz isolation transformer. For higher power levels the buck converter could be easily replaced by other isolated, buck derived topologies, like any variation of the forward or bridge type converters. Using one of these isolated conversion techniques will eliminate the bulky 60Hz transformer by integrating the isolation into the high frequency power stage. The design procedure, that will be presented in this Application Note for the buck configuration, can be easily adapted to the other power converters.

The usual elements of the buck converter can be recognized in Figure 4. They are Q1, D2, L1 and C5. Other components in the power stage pertain to additional, application specific requirements. D1 prevents the discharge of the battery by the con-

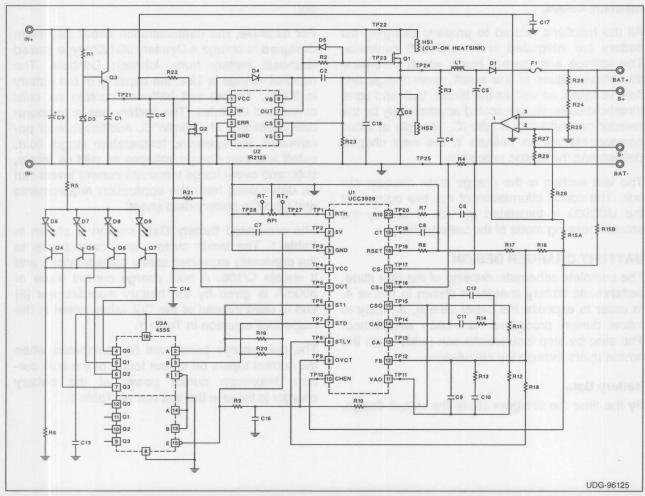


Figure 4. Demonstration Board Schematic

troller, when the primary power source is absent. An output fuse, F1, protects the circuit against the possible hazards when the battery is connected to the output terminals with reverse polarity. The charge current is measured by the resistor, R4 in the ground return path. The controller section consists of four well separable circuits. The first functional block is composed of R1, D3, Q3, and C1. These components provide a stabilized voltage for the rest of the control circuitry.

In the buck converter, the controlled switch, Q1, is located between the positive input terminal and the common node of the freewheeling diode, D2, and the output filter inductor, L1. There are many different components which could be used as a switch, yet for efficient operation and cost considerations, an N-channel MOSFET transistor has been selected. To interface the floating switch to the ground referenced controller, a high side driver is inevitable. The high side driver circuit consists of U2, D4, D5, R2, C2, Q2, R22 and R23. Its purpose is to level shift the output pulse of the control IC to the gate of the MOSFET transistor with minimum delays.

All the functions related to properly charging the battery are integrated in the UC3909 controller. The voltage and current levels which determine the actual values of the cutoff, over-charge and float voltages, as well as the trickle, bulk and taper threshold currents, are scaled appropriately by the resistor networks around the IC. The role of those components will be defined in the next chapter deliberating the design procedure.

The last section is the charge state decoder circuit. The coded information of the two outputs of the UC3909 is translated by U3, to display the actual operating mode of the battery charger.

BATTERY CHARGER DESIGN

The complete schematic drawing of the four state, switchmode battery charger is shown in Figure 4. In order to expedite the paper design, an easy to follow design procedure has been established. The step by step instructions can guide even the novice users through the calculations.

Battery Data

By the time the designer starts the circuit design,

the type of the battery is already defined. The battery selection criteria are not detailed in this Application Note. Nevertheless, it is worthwhile to draw attention to some of the circumstances influencing the decision. Naturally, the most important parameters are the voltage and current requirements of the load as well as the time duration while the battery has to be able to supply the load current. Furthermore, the user has to consider whether the application requires frequent charge and discharge cycles or the battery is used in backup mode, where most of the time it will standby in its fully charged state. The available time for recharging the battery is also a significant factor to determine the applicable algorithm, and charge current rates. Combination of all these conditions will define the required battery and some of the battery charger parameters.

Once the battery is defined we can obtain the first set of input data. From the battery manufacturer's data sheet, more frequently through several telephone calls, and considering some application related conditions, the lines of Table 1 can be filled out.

For example, the demonstration circuit has been designed to charge a Dynasty JC1222 type sealed lead-acid battery from Johnson Controls. The nominal voltage is 12V, the capacity of the battery is 2.2Ah. Twelve volt batteries contain six cells connected in series. The battery has a temperature coefficient of -3.9mV/°C. Additional input parameters, like operating temperature range, float, cutoff and over-charge voltages as well as trickle, bulk, and over-charge terminate current levels can be determined from the application requirements and from the battery data sheet.

The completed Battery Data section is shown in Table 1. The trickle current level corresponds to the previously explained safety considerations and it equals C/100. A bulk charge current value of 800mA is given by the battery manufacturer [8] and is used instead of the C/2 value, noted in the respective equation in Table 1.

The over-charge period will be terminated when the current tapers off to one fourth of the bulk current. Maximum output power of the battery charger is listed in the last row of Table 1.

Parameter	Description	Definition	Value/Part#
Battery Data		portiling Parameters	JC1222
V	Nominal Battery Voltage	- ugasu\/ /aga	12V
NC	Number Of Cells	connected in series within the battery	6
C _{RATE}	Battery Capacity	use C/10 capacity; from battery datasheet	2.2 Ah
Vc	Cell Float Voltage	@25°C, fully charged; from battery datasheet	2.275V
V _{C,MAX}	Maximum Cell Voltage	@25°C, over-charge limit; from battery datasheet	2.43V
V _{C,MIN}	Minimum Cell Voltage	@25°C, fully discharged; from battery datasheet	1.75V
I _{TRICKLE}	Trickle Charge Current Limit	I _{TRICKLE} = 0.01·C _{RATE} ; typical or use battery datasheet	22mA
I _{BULK}	Bulk Charge Current Limit	I _{BULK} = 0.5⋅C _{RATE} ; typical or use battery datasheet	0.8A
Гост	Over-Charge Terminate Current Threshold	I _{OCT} = 0.25 · I _{BULK} ; typical or use battery datasheet	0.2A
TC	Cell Voltage Temperature Coefficient	typical value; the thermistor linearizer circuit is calibrated for this temperature coefficient	-3.9 mV/°C
T _{MIN}	Minimum Operating Battery Temperature	refer to your application requirements	-10°C
T _{MAX}	Maximum Operating Battery Temperature	refer to your application requirements	+50°C
V _{BAT}	Battery Float Voltage	V _{BAT} = V _C · NC ; nominal, @ 25°C battery temperature	13.65V
V _{BAT,MIN}	Minimum Battery Voltage	$V_{BAT,MIN} = [V_{C,MIN} + (T_{MAX} - 25) \cdot TC] \cdot NC;$ @ T_{MAX} ; fully discharged	9.92V
V _{BAT,MAX}	Maximum Battery Voltage	$V_{BAT,MAX} = [V_{C,MAX} + (T_{MIN} - 25) \cdot TC] \cdot NC;$ @ T_{MIN} ; fully charged	15.40V
Р _{СН,МАХ}	Maximum Output Power	P _{CH,MAX} = I _{BULK} · V _{BAT,MAX}	12.3W

Table 1. Battery Charger Input Parameters

Buck Converter Operating Conditions

The battery charger circuit of the UC3909 is based on the buck topology. Before the component values of the power stage can be calculated, the basic operating parameters must be defined.

The output voltage range is listed in Table 1 as $V_{\text{BAT,MIN}}$ and $V_{\text{BAT,MAX}}$ determined primarily by the operating temperature range and the battery technology. On the other hand, input voltage variation depends on the power source. For this particular example, assume a 60Hz line isolation transformer with the optimized step down ratio. At minimum line voltage, it provides 18V DC voltage after rectification. Taking into account nominal tolerances,

the input voltage of the converter at high line condition will be approximately 30V DC. From the minimum and maximum values of the input and output voltages, the steady state duty ratio limits are calculated (D=0.37 ... 0.89) as shown in Table 2.

At this point, the switching frequency of the converter has to be chosen. The trade-offs involved in the frequency selection are numerous. The primary factors are the speed of the prospective semiconductors, the capabilities of the controller, maintaining high efficiency in wide load current variations, power level and the size of the output inductor and capacitors.

Parameter	Description	Definition	Value/Part#
Buck Conv	erter Operating Parameters		Stary Date
V _{IN,MIN}	Minimum Input Voltage	Appation Votage	18V
V _{IN,MAX}	Maximum Input Voltage	t a development of the second	30V
fs	Switching Frequency	wilder Capacity und Capacity Capacity	50kHz
V _{D1F}	D1 Diode Forward Voltage Drop (estimate)	@100°C with I _{BULK}	0.59V
V _{D2F}	D2 Diode Forward Voltage Drop (estimate)	@100°C with IBULK	0.73V
D _{MAX}	Maximum Duty Ratio	$D_{MAX} = \frac{V_{BAT,MAX} + V_{D1F} + V_{D2F}}{V_{IN,MIN} + V_{D2F}}$	0.89
D _{MIN}	Minimum Duty Ratio	$D_{MIN} = \frac{V_{BAT,MIN} + V_{D1F} + V_{D2F}}{V_{IN,MAX} + V_{D2F}}$	0.37

Table 2. Buck Converter Operating Parameters

For example, the upper limit of the operating frequency is bound to the capabilities of the slowest components. In the demonstration circuit, the high side gate driver circuit can be conveniently operated up to 150kHz operating frequency. Since the buck converter is a hard switched topology, the operating frequency has a significant effect on the efficiency. Considering that most of the time the charger supplies light output load, further reduction of the switching frequency is desirable to maintain decent efficiency in this operating modes.

While reducing the switching frequency has a beneficial effect on efficiency, at the same time the size of the output inductor and capacitors are increasing. The compromise between the size of the reactive circuit components and light load efficiency in trickle and float charge modes led to a moderate switching frequency selection of 50kHz.

Power Stage Design

Table 3 summarizes the design procedure of the power components. The bold entries shall be copied over to the part list directly. The respective equations are included, and they make use of variables defined in Table 1 and Table 2, or by the previous lines in Table 3.

Semiconductors

First, the three semiconductor devices are selected. Their voltage and current ratings are based on the maximum input and output voltages and on the bulk charge current. The minimum current ratings given in Table 3 assure appropriate margins for reliable operation. Using higher current components improves efficiency but also might increase cost.

After the part number is chosen, power dissipation estimates are given based on the actual voltage, current, and device parameters. The diode D1 carries the DC output current, therefore its dissipation is strictly conduction loss. The other two semiconductors are part of the switching circuit, hence their power dissipation is calculated by adding their respective conduction and switching losses.

Note that estimating switching losses on device parameters can be fairly inaccurate. This can cause a significant difference between the estimated and real switching losses especially at higher operating frequencies.

Output Inductor

The inductance of the output choke has been calculated by choosing the maximum ripple component of the inductor current. In a general purpose buck converter, unless extreme noise, core loss or application specific requirements would dictate otherwise, the rule of thumb is 25% to 35% of the DC current value is acceptable for ripple current content. Although battery manufacturers are concerned about using AC currents to charge the battery, they usually refer to frequencies below 1kHz. The DC output current with superimposed AC components of the switchmode chargers, at considerably higher frequencies, will be averaged by the slow chemical processes inside the battery.

Input Capacitor

The value of the input energy storage capacitor depends on the tolerable ripple and noise voltage at the input of the converter, and a function of the hold-up requirements. It is especially important for

AC operated chargers where the energy is available in 120Hz repetitions, while the output has to be supplied continuously.

The situation is somewhat different if the charger is part of a distributed power system where an already regulated voltage with reasonable energy storage capability is available for the circuit. In this case, the ripple current handling capability of C3, and the noise requirements will determine the value of the input capacitor.

In Table 3, the value of the selected input capacitor is based on its rms current handling capability. The UC3909 demonstration circuit will operate properly when it is connected to a laboratory power supply, but will require a larger input capacitance in off-line applications.

Output Capacitor

There are numerous factors determining the output capacitor value. The various noise requirements at the output of the converter, the acceptable output voltage sag during the time interval when the capacitor contributes to supply the load current, and loop stability criteria. Fortunately, for all practical purposes, the output capacitor of a battery charger loses its importance since it is connected in parallel with the battery. The battery is considered as a low impedance voltage source with great high frequency filtering capabilities, taking over the traditional functions of the output capacitor.

The output capacitor, C5 of the demonstration circuit was chosen to handle the rms value of the ripple current component in the output inductor, L1 and to provide appropriate filtering in the absence of the battery.

RC Damping Circuit

Due to the nonideal nature of the switching action in all hard switching topologies, excessive switching spikes can develop across the semiconductors of the circuit during the switching time interval. The reduction of this voltage stress is accomplished by an RC snubber circuit consisting of R3 and C4 of the demonstration circuit. The complex optimization of the RC network is assisted by reference [6]. Proper operation of the snubber circuit also depends on the layout and the parasitic components of the switching circuit. Table 3 gives two

equations to calculate the component values of R3 and C4 as a starting point. Further optimization of these component values might be desirable based on measurement results.

Note, that a tight layout of the critical components C18, Q1 and D2, and using an ultra fast rectifier diode are also essential to keep unwanted switching spikes under control.

Current Sense

The accurate control of the output current is one of the most important functions of the battery charger. It is achieved by the UC3909 control IC using average current mode control. An exact measurement of the current flowing in the output inductor, L1 is required. Therefore, a low value current sense resistor, R4 is placed in the ground return path, between the anode of D2 and the negative electrode of the output capacitor, C5. The voltage developed across R4 is proportional to the inductor current, and used by the controller to regulate the trickle and bulk charge current levels as well as to provide current limiting during overload operation.

The value of the current sense resistor is determined to satisfy two conditions. The first constraint is to limit the maximum voltage across R4 below 350mV when full output current is delivered. This is required by the UC3909 to prevent the current sense amplifier from saturation. The second restriction is the power dissipation of R4. In Table 3, the power dissipation of the current sense resistor was set to 1.5% of the maximum output power. This assumption was made to balance between two opposing requirements, namely to maintain high efficiency and to provide the highest signal level across R4, thus to improve noise immunity of the circuit. The maximum power dissipation equation of R4 might have to be revised, especially in higher power applications, due to component ratings and efficiency considerations.

Output Fuse

The fuse in series with the output of the battery charger is intended to prevent catastrophic failure if the battery is connected to the charger with reversed polarity. The fuse has to be selected with sufficient safety margin to carry the full charge current, but disconnect the output quickly in case of excessive currents drawn from the battery.

Parameter	Description	Definition	Value/Part#
Power Stage	e Design	s and purple on a section and and section the section is	GEN SHOST THE
V _{RMM} (D1)	Diode Breakdown Voltage (minimum)	V _{RRM} = 1.5 · V _{BAT,MAX} (pick the next higher standard value)	(23.1V) 50V
I _{O,MIN} (D1)	Diode Current Rating (minimum)	$I_{O,MIN} = 2 \cdot I_{BULK}$	1.6A
D1	Discharge Protection Diode	Select general purpose diode.	GI750CT
P _{D1}	Diode Power Dissipation (approximate value for heatsink selection)	P _{D1} = I _{BULK} · V _{D1F} (assuming 100°C junction temperature)	0.5W
V _{RMM} (D2)	Diode Breakdown Voltage (minimum)	V _{RRM} = 1.5 · V _{IN,MAX} (pick the next higher standard value)	(45V) 50V
I _{O,MIN} (D2)	Diode Current Rating (minimum)	$I_{O,MIN} = 2 \cdot I_{BULK}$	1.6A
D2	Buck Freewheeling Diode	Select ultra fast switching diode.	MUR610
t _{RR}	Diode Reverse Recovery Time	catalog data; @ I _{BULK} ; approximate value	35ns
I _{RRM}	Diode Peak Reverse Recovery Current	catalog data; @ I _{BULK} ; approximate value	0.5A
P _{D2}	Diode Power Dissipation (approximate value for heatsink selection)	$P_{D2} = I_{BULK} \cdot (1 - D_{MIN}) \cdot V_{D2F} + $ $+ 0.25 \cdot I_{RRM} \cdot V_{IN,MAX} \cdot t_{RR} \cdot f_{S}$	0.38W
V _{DSS} (Q1)	Switch Breakdown Voltage (minimum)	V _{DSS} = 1.5 · V _{IN,MAX} (pick the next higher standard value)	(45V) 50V
I _{D,MIN} (Q1)	Transistor Current Rating (minimum)	$I_{D,MIN} = 4 \cdot I_{BULK}$	3.2A
Q1	Buck Main Switch	Select the MOSFET transistor	IRFZ14
R _{DSON} (Q1)	Switch ON Resistance	catalog data; @25°C, typical value	200mΩ
Coss (Q1)	Drain Source Capacitance	catalog data; typical value	160pF
I _{GATE}	Gate Charge/Discharge	approximate, average value	0.8A
Q _{GS} (Q1)	Gate-To-Source Charge	catalog data	3.1nC
Q _{GD} (Q1)	Gate-To-Drain Charge	catalog data	5.8nC
toff; ton	Approximate Switching Times	$t_{OFF} = t_{ON} = \frac{Q_{GS} + Q_{GD}}{I_{GATF}}$	12ns
P _{Q1}	Switch Power Dissipation (approximate value for heatsink selection)	$P_{Q1} = I_{BULK}^2 \cdot D_{MAX} \cdot R_{DSON} \cdot 1.5 +$ $+ 0.5 \cdot C_{OSS} \cdot V_{IN,MAX}^2 \cdot f_S +$ $+ \frac{V_{IN,MAX} \cdot I_{BULK}}{2} \cdot (t_{OFF} + t_{ON} + t_{RR}) \cdot f_S$	0.21W
P _{HS}	Heatsink Power Dissipation	$P_{HS} = P_{D1} + P_{D2} + P_{Q1}$; worst case, estimate	1.1W
$\Delta I_{L,MAX}$	Inductor Ripple Current	$\Delta I_{L1,MAX} = 0.4 \cdot I_{BULK}$; typical value	0.32A
L1	Buck Inductance	$L1 = \frac{V_{IN,MAX}}{\Delta I_{L1,MAX} \cdot 4 \cdot f_{S}}$	(0.47mH) 0.4mH
I _{L1,PEAK}	Inductor Peak Current	$I_{L1,PEAK} = I_{BULK} + \frac{V_{IN,MAX}}{8 \cdot L1 \cdot f_{S}}$	1A
L1	Buck Filter Inductor	Check vendor's list for off the shelf part number or design you inductor according to the values above	PCV-2-400-05 (Coiltronics)

Parameter	Description	Definition	Value/Part#
V _{C3}	Input Capacitor Voltage Rating	$V_{C3} = 1.5 \cdot V_{IN,MAX}$ (pick the next higher standard value)	(45V) 50V
I _{C3,RMS}	Input Capacitor RMS Current	$I_{C3,RMS} = 0.5 \cdot I_{BULK}$ (worst case @ f _s ; D=0.5)	0.4A
C3	Input Capacitor (electrolytic)	High frequency type, i.e. Panasonic HFQ series (see text for value considerations)	680μF/35V
C18	High Frequency Bypass Capacitor For Switches	Polypropylene or stacked metallized film. Minimum voltage rating equals V _{C3} .	1μF/63V
V _{C5}	Output Capacitor Voltage Rating	$V_{C5} = 1.5 \cdot V_{BAT,MAX}$ (pick the next higher standard value)	(23.1V) 25V
I _{C5,RMS}	Output Capacitor RMS Current	$I_{C5,RMS} = \frac{V_{IN,MAX}}{\sqrt{192} \cdot f_S \cdot L1}$	108mA
C5	Output Capacitor (electrolytic)	High frequency type, i.e. Panasonic HFQ series (see text for value considerations)	470μF/25V
R _{C5.ESR}	Output Capacitor's ESR	from datasheet	65mΩ
P _{SN,MAX}	Snubber Power Dissipation	$P_{SN,MAX} = P_{CH,MAX} \cdot 0.015$ assume 1.5% of full output power	0.185W
V _{C4}	Snubber Capacitor Voltage Rating	$V_{C4} = 1.5 \cdot V_{IN,MAX}$ (pick the next higher standard value)	(45V) 63V
C4	Snubber Capacitor (polypropylene or metal- lized film)	$C4 = \frac{2 \cdot P_{SN,MAX}}{V_{IN,MAX}^2 \cdot f_S}$ (pick the closest standard value)	(8.2nF) 10nF
R3	Snubber Resistor (noninductive)	$R3 = \frac{1}{16 \cdot \pi \cdot f_S \cdot C4}$ (pick the closest standard value)	(39.8Ω) 39 Ω
P _{R4,MAX}	Current Sense Resistor Power Dissipation	$P_{R4,MAX} = P_{CH,MAX} \cdot 0.015$ assume 1.5% of full output power	0.185W
R4	Current Sense Resistor (RS) (noninductive)	$R4 \le \frac{0.35}{I_{L1,PEAK}} AND R4 \le \frac{P_{R4,MAX}}{I_{BULK}^2}$ (pick the next lower standard value)	(291m Ω) 270m Ω (RCD type: RSF1B)
F1	Output Fuse Rating (fast acting type)	I _{F1} = 1.25 · I _{BULK} (pick the next higher standard value)	(1.0A) 1A

Table 3. Buck Converter Power Stage Components Design Sheet

Controller Design

The controller design is described in Table 4. Instructions are organized by the functional blocks of the circuit. This procedure is similar to the one explained in the power stage design. All the equations use parameters calculated or entered in the previous three tables or the preceding lines of Table 4.

Auxiliary Power Supply

The purpose of this circuit is to provide a stabilized voltage for the gate drive IC and for the UC3909 controller circuits. The auxiliary voltage has to be

higher than 7.8V, the undervoltage lockout of the UC3909. Furthermore, the auxiliary voltage has to be suitable to drive the gate of the MOSFET switch directly, limiting the voltage level below 18V. The auxiliary voltage of the demonstration circuit is approximately 14.5V, to satisfy both requirements with appropriate margins.

The circuit configuration shown in Figure 4 assumes that the minimum input voltage is higher than the auxiliary voltage. In this case, R1 biases D3 to the zener voltage, and provide the base current to Q3. The auxiliary voltage will be equal to the zener voltage minus the base emitter voltage

of Q3. The advantage of this solution is that the controller supply current flowing through Q3, is independent from the input voltage.

For completeness, it should be mentioned that there are other solutions to power the controller section of the battery charger. The actual solution has to take into account the operating input voltage range, the selected gate drive technique and the type of semiconductor used in place of Q1. For example, using a P-channel MOSFET transistor will require a different gate drive technique but will allow the user to omit the auxiliary supply and to power up the UC3909 directly from the input voltage. Note that even in this case auxiliary power supply might be necessary if the maximum input voltage exceeds the VCC rating of the controller.

MOSFET Gate Drive

The gate drive circuit is based on the IR2125, High Voltage High Side Gate Driver integrated circuit from International Rectifier. The different considerations for designing the circuit are outlined in the IR2125 datasheet, [7], and are used in the component selection. The given part values are applicable for switching frequencies above 10kHz and limited below approximately 150kHz. Using the IR2125 is possible for input voltages below 500V due to the voltage rating of the device.

There is one design aspect regarding the gate drive circuit which needs to be clarified. The IR2125 like all other high side driver IC working with the bootstrapping principle monitors the voltage across the bootstrap capacitor to ensure sufficient voltage for turning on the MOSFET transistor. The first pulse appears at the gate when both voltages, VCC with respect to ground and VB with respect to the VS pin are above their respective undervoltage lockout thresholds. Thus, precharging the bootstrap capacitor, C2 is imperative to get the circuit initially running. During normal operation, C2 is charged instantaneously through the conducting rectifier diode, D2. Conversely, at start-up D2 will prevent charging the bootstrap capacitor. Fortunately the problem can be solved by a large value resistor, R23 connected between the VS pin of the IR2125 and the ground of the circuit.

Differential Output Voltage Sense

The differential voltage sense block is optional. Several trade-offs will be discussed in a later chapter together with other practical considerations. Adding a simple operational amplifier and a couple of resistors provides tighter output voltage regulation and remote sensing capability to the charger.

The design of the differential voltage sense circuit has to satisfy two conditions. The gain of the amplifier must be higher than the reciprocal value of the number of cells connected in series in the battery. This assures that the output voltage of the differential amplifier is compatible with the voltages expected by the UC3909. A second condition is given in Table 4 ensures that the inputs of the differential amplifier stage will be kept within their common mode voltage range at any possible battery voltage. The actual gain, within these two limits, can be determined by the user.

Note that the gain of the amplifier, "A", will be used in the subsequent lines of Table 4. Therefore, even if the differential amplifier stage is omitted, the value of "A" shall be made equal to 1, and used for the rest of the calculations.

Housekeeping and Battery Temperature Sensing

The oscillator frequency is set by C8 and R8, and the UC3909 datasheet contains the exact timing equations. In Table 4, the timing equation is already solved for easily available capacitor values and for the most common frequency range. First the user selects the appropriate capacitor value based on the switching frequency defined in Table 2. Then the value of R8 is calculated, since resistor values are available in much finer steps than those of the capacitors.

In the demonstration circuit the battery temperature variation is simulated by the RP1 potentiometer. For actual temperature compensation, it shall be substituted by a L1005-5744-103-D1 type thermistor from Keystone Carbon Co. [11] or equivalent. Since the resistance of the thermistor should represent the battery temperature, it is usually mounted on or in the vicinity of the battery. To facilitate this, a two pin header, P4 is provided for convenient connection of the temperature sensor.

Current Limitation

Four resistors R9, R10, R11, and R12 program the three critical current levels, as defined in Table 1. A battery charger operates in current limited mode during trickle and bulk charge. The corre-

sponding two current levels are the trickle current, $I_{TRICKLE}$ and the bulk charge current, I_{BULK} . A third distinct current level is the taper current threshold, I_{OCT} where the IC will switch from over-charge to float charge regime.

The accuracy of the different current levels depends on component tolerances and on some of the parameters of the control IC. Tolerances of the external resistors can be controlled by the appropriate part selection but the internal offsets and tolerances of the UC3909 are out of hand for the designer. The largest error term inside the IC is the offset of the current sense amplifier. Its effect is especially significant in trickle charge mode and at low current levels when the measured current signal is in the same order of magnitude than the input offset of the operational amplifier. For that reason, the initial accuracy of the trickle charge current limit can be in the neighborhood of ±30%. As the output current increases the accuracy improves rapidly and it is around ±5% at full current assuming 1% resistor tolerances.

Fortunately, in the battery charger application, only the bulk charge current has to be controlled precisely. The tolerances of the other two current values might influence the transitions between the charge regimes but do not represent a danger to the battery.

Setting The Output Voltages

The deep discharge threshold or cutoff voltage, over-charge voltage and float voltage are defined by the resistor network of R15, R16, R17, and R18, connected to the feedback pin of the UC3909. There are two different setup possibilities depending on whether the differential voltage sense circuit is used or omitted. With differential sensing, the calculated value of R15 resistor is placed in the position marked R15A, using the signal of the output of the operational amplifier, U4, for voltage regulation. In case of direct sensing of the output, the position R15B must be used instead. In order to provide tight tolerances of the three voltage levels, using 1% resistors is recommended.

Closing The Current Loop

"Closing the loop" is a frightening topic for many power supply designers. The detailed analysis of how to implement optimum loop compensation of the average current mode controller is beyond the scope of this Application Note. Nevertheless some excellent reference materials and design guide are listed in the Reference section of this paper [3], [4] and [5]. These articles cover not only the design criteria of the average current control loop used in the UC3909, but also explain the critical issues related to closing the voltage loop of the controller.

Using the procedure outlined in [3], closed form equations can be derived for all feedback components and they are given in Table 4.

Voltage Loop Compensation

The voltage loop of the demonstration circuit is compensated very conservatively for stability under wide operating conditions by introducing a dominant, low frequency pole to the system. The voltage loop crossover frequency is designed to be around 1kHz, which will result in a quite slow response to fast output voltage variations. However, the circuit performance is still acceptable since battery charging does not impose severe transient requirements on the power supply.

Note, that the equations given in Table 4 are suitable to implement stable voltage loop compensation but far from achieving the maximum bandwidth or best transient behavior.

Charge State Decoder

The battery charger progresses through four different operating modes which are related to the status of the charging process and to the replaced capacity of the battery. This information can be further processed to reveal vital information about the condition of the battery, to estimate the remaining charge time, and possibly to record the history of the battery. The UC3909 can signal the actual charge state in binary coded form on the STATO and STAT1 outputs. A truth table for decoding the status bits is given in the datasheet.

For the users convenience, a simple charge state decoder is implemented in the demonstration circuit. The decoding function is performed by an inexpensive integrated circuit, U3. According to the STATO and STAT1 outputs of the UC3909, one of its outputs are activated, which will cause one of the four transistors of Q4 - Q7, and respective light emitting diodes to turn on. Each LED corresponds to one of the four charge states as marked on the printed circuit board. The resistors R6 and R5 are intended to set the LED currents and to reduce the voltage across the collector and the emitter terminals of the transistors.

Parameter	Description	Definition	Value/Part#
Controller Pa	art Values	creates commit pales of man a mind in the	aud ou cro an
C6, C7, C13, C14, C15, C16,C17	Bypass Capacitors	X7R monolithic ceramic capacitors. Minimum voltage rating 25V.	100nF/63V
Auxiliary Pov	wer Supply	and telephone and on sense of Littlew than	
D3	Auxiliary Voltage Stabilizer	V _z = 15V ; zener diode; 1W / 5%	1N4744A
V _{CEO} (Q3)	Collector Emitter Breakdown Voltage	$V_{CEO} = 1.5 \cdot (V_{IN,MAX} - V_Z)$ (select the next higher standard value)	(22.5V) 30V
Q3	Auxiliary Power Bypass	Select general purpose NPN transistor.	2N3904
R1	Zener Bias Resistor	$R1 = \frac{V_{IN,MIN} - V_Z}{2 \cdot 10^{-3}}$	1.5kΩ
P _{R1}	Zener Bias Resistor Power Dissipation	$P_{R1} = \frac{\left(V_{IN,MAX} - V_Z\right)^2}{R1}$	0.15W
C1	Auxiliary Power Storage Capacitor	Aluminum electrolytic capacitor. Minimum voltage rating 25V.	82μF/25V
Gate Drive	this you seek business As	Distribute the Appunity are sine batter	Emes over to on
U2	International Rectifier	High Voltage High Side MOS Gate Driver	IR2125
C2	Bootstrap Capacitor	Stacked metallized film capacitor. Minimum voltage rating 25V.	0.15μF/50V
D4, D5	Switching Signal Diodes	Select high speed signal switching diodes.	1N4148
Q2	Gate Drive Inverter	Select small signal MOSFET transistor.	2N7000
R2	Gate Resistor for Q1	18 counts of decree is Chings Si	4.7Ω
R21, R22	Gate Drive Pull Up Resistors	orlad enT age framel	1kΩ
R23	Bootstrap Precharger	UNo suffets engineery	1kΩ
R30	Gate Pull Down Resistor	o Ascadea - Infletion Retria to Noctaern .	10kΩ
Differential V	oltage Sense - Optional	Minus and a few YES STS STS to Sure	
U4	National Semiconductor	Dual Single Supply Operational Amplifier	LM358N
I _{FB,MAX}	Maximum Current Through Feedback Resistors	we different sorup possibilities. history of the differential voltage. actual one	150μΑ
R24, R27	Voltage Sense Resistors	$R24 = R27 = \frac{V_{BAT}}{I_{FB,MAX}}$	91kΩ
R28, R29	Voltage Sense Resistors	R28 = R29 = 0.001·R24	91Ω
R25, R26	Voltage Sense Divider	R25 = R26 = A · R24; where A must be $\frac{1}{NC}$ < A < $\frac{V_Z - 3}{V_{BAT,MAX}}$	30kΩ
A	Gain Of Voltage Sense Amplifier	$A = \frac{R25}{R24 + R28}$; A=1 if amplifier is omitted.	0.3297
Charger Con	trol Section - IC Setup - Hou	sekeeping And Temperature Sensing	Service Commence
U1	Unitrode	Switchmode Lead-Acid Battery Charger IC	UC3909N
C8	Timing Capacitor, CT	f _S < 25 kHz 5.6nF	1.5nF
	SID THE OF CONTINUE AND	25 kHz < f _s < 50 kHz 3.3nF	to implement is
	erolaiensa sett to eleniment	50 kHz < f _s < 110 kHz 1.5nF	Tarilo bos asy
		110 kHz < f _s < 220 kHz 680pF	eniday sun in e

Parameter	Description	Definition	Value/Part#
R8	RSET Oscillator	$R8 = \frac{1}{1.2 \cdot C8 \cdot f_S}$	11kΩ
R7	Reference Resistor For The Thermistor Linearizer	Select 1%, low temperature coefficient type.	10kΩ
RP1	Thermistor Emulation Potentiometer	Select 10 turns potentiometer for fine resolution. (Set initial value to 10kΩ before putting it in.)	50k Ω
Charger Cor	ntrol Section - IC Setup - Cur	rent Levels	NV I
R9	OVCTAP Set Resistor (ROVC2)	Noncritical; use:	100kΩ
R10	OVCTAP Set Resistor (ROVC1)	R10 = 1.8518 · I _{OCT} · R4 · R9	10kΩ
R11	Trickle Current Limit Set Resistor (RG1)	R11= 43.4783·I _{TRICKLE} ·R4·R8	2.7k Ω
R12	Bulk Current Limit Set Resistor (RG2)	$R12 = \frac{0.54 \cdot R11}{I_{BULK} \cdot R4}$	6.8k Ω
Charger Cor	ntrol Section - IC Setup - Volt		an hatarday
R15	Battery Voltage Divider (RS1) ±1% recommended	$R15 = \frac{V_{C,MAX}}{I_{FB,MAX}} \cdot \frac{V_{C,MIN} \cdot A \cdot NC - 2.3}{V_{C,MIN}}$	11kΩ
R16	Battery Voltage Divider (RS2) ±1% recommended	$R16 = \frac{2.3}{I_{FB,MAX}} \cdot \frac{V_{C,MAX} - V_{C,MIN}}{V_{C,MIN}}$	6.2k Ω
R17	Battery Voltage Divider (RS3) ±1% recommended	$R17 = \frac{2.3}{I_{FB,MAX}} \cdot \frac{V_{C,MAX} \cdot A \cdot NC - 2.3}{V_{C} \cdot A \cdot NC - 2.3}$	18kΩ
R18	Battery Voltage Float Adj. (RS4) ±1% recommended	$R18 = \frac{2.3}{I_{FB,MAX}} \cdot \frac{V_{C,MAX} \cdot A \cdot NC - 2.3}{\left(V_{C,MAX} - V_{C}\right) \cdot A \cdot NC}$	130kΩ
Charger Cor	ntrol Section - IC Setup - Cur		a vine.h
R14	Current Error Amplifier Compensation Resistor	$R14 = \frac{0.28 \cdot f_{S} \cdot L1}{V_{BAT,MAX} + V_{D1F} + V_{D2F}} \cdot \frac{R11}{R4}$	3.3kΩ
C11	Current Error Amplifier Compensation Capacitor	$C11 = \frac{10}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot f_{S} \cdot R14}$	10nF
C12	Current Error Amplifier Compensation Capacitor	$C12 = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot f_S \cdot R14}$	1nF
Charger Cor	ntrol Section - IC Setup - Volt	0	a Fur.o
f ₀	Voltage Loop Cross-Over Frequency	Dominant pole; noncritical requirements.	1kHz
R13	Voltage Error Amplifier Compensation Resistor	$R13 = \frac{0.625 \cdot V_{IN,MAX} \cdot (R15 + R16)}{A \cdot I_{BULK} \cdot f_S \cdot L1 \cdot V_{BAT,MAX}}.$	910kΩ
	(2) 1%, 0.25W 2) 5%, 0.25W 1) 5%, 0.25W	$\sqrt{\frac{1 + \left(16 \cdot \pi \cdot f_0 \cdot f_S \cdot L1 \cdot C5 \cdot \frac{V_{BAT,MAX}}{V_{IN,MAX}}\right)^2}{1 + \left(2 \cdot \pi \cdot f_0 \cdot R_{C5,ESR} \cdot C5\right)^2}}$	104148 104148 120385 12741H 4
	WeS.0, 28 Ω		1.25.351
C9	Voltage Error Amplifier Compensation Capacitor	$C9 = \frac{C5 \cdot R_{C5,ESR}}{R13}$	33pF
C10	Voltage Error Amplifier Compensation Capacitor	$C10 = \frac{8 \cdot f_s \cdot L1 \cdot C5 \cdot V_{BAT,MAX}}{R13 \cdot V_{IN,MAX}}$	47nF
Charge State	e Decoder	MAN ANNO YOU	PURBASIT
U3	Motorola	Dual Binary To 1-of-4 Decoder/Demultiplexer	MC14555BC
00	IVIOLOIDIA	Dual biliary to 1-01-4 Decode/DemulipleXer	WIC 14333BC

Parameter	Description	Definition	Value/Part#
D6, D7, D8, D9	Status Indicator LED's	Quad green LED assembly.	IDI 5640H5
Q4, Q5, Q6, Q7	LED Driver Transistors	Minimum V _{CEO} equals V _{IN,MAX} value	2N3904
R6	LED Current Set Resistor	$R6 = \frac{4.3}{0.01}$ assuming 10 mA LED current.	430Ω
R5	Voltage Limiter of the LED Driver Transistors	$R5 = \frac{V_{\text{IN,MIN}} - 7}{0.01}$	1.1kΩ
R19, R20	Pull Up Resistors	Noncritical; use:	10kΩ

 Table 4.
 Four State Battery Charger Controller Design Sheet

PARTS LIST			R1	1.5 k Ω	5%, 0.2	25W		
The following Bill Of Material was generated from			R2	4.7Ω	5%, 0.2	25W		
the calculated part values listed in Table 3 and 4.			R3	39Ω	5%, 0.6	6W metal film		
The part designators correspond to the Demon-			R4	270mΩ	5%, 1V	VRCD-RSF1B		
stration	Board co	mpone	ent positions.	R5	1.1kΩ	5%, 0.2	25W	
			MANUAL A	R6	430Ω	5%, 0.2	25W	
C1	82μF, 2		electrolytic	R7	10kΩ	5%, 0.2		
C2	0.15μF 5		met.film / polypropylene	R8	11kΩ	5%, 0.2		
C3		35V	electrolytic	R9	100kΩ			
C4		50V	met.film / polypropylene	R10	10kΩ	5%, 0.2		
C5		25V	electrolytic	R11	2.7kΩ	5%, 0.2		
C6		50V	ceramic	R12	6.8kΩ	5%, 0.2		
C7		50V	ceramic	R13	910kΩ			
C8		50V	ceramic	R14	3.3kΩ	5%, 0.2		
C9		50V	ceramic	R15A	11kΩ	1%, 0.2		
C10		50V	ceramic	R16	6.2kΩ	1%, 0.2		
C11		50V	ceramic	R17	18kΩ	1%, 0.2		
C12		50V	ceramic					
C13		50V	ceramic	R18	130kΩ	1%, 0.2		
C14		50V	ceramic	R19	10kΩ	5%, 0.2		
C15		50V	ceramic	R20	10kΩ	5%, 0.2		
C16		50V	ceramic	R21	1kΩ	5%, 0.2		
C17		50V	ceramic	R22	1kΩ	5%, 0.2		
C18		53V	met.film / polypropylene	R23	1kΩ	5%, 0.2		
D1	GI750CT		100V, 6A, general	R24	91kΩ	1%, 0.2		
D2	MUR610		100V, 6A, ultrafast	R25	30kΩ	1%, 0.2		
D3	1N4744A	4	15V,1W zener	R26	$30k\Omega$	1%, 0.2	25W	
D4	1N4148		75V, 200mA, switching	R27	$91k\Omega$	1%, 0.2	25W	
D5	1N4148		75V, 200mA, switching	R28	91Ω	5%, 0.2	25W	
D6-D9	L20355		LED assembly,IDI	R29	91Ω	5%, 0.2	25W	
L1	375μH 4	łA	Coiltronics	R30	10 kΩ	5%, 0.2	25W	
Q1	IRFZ14		60V, 10A, NMOS	RP1	50kΩ	0.25W	10 turns potentiom	eter
Q2 Q3	2N7000 2N3904		60V, 500mA, NMOS	U1	UC390		Battery Charger	
Q4	2N3904 2N3904		40V, 200mA, NPN 40V, 200mA, NPN				Controller	
Q5	2N3904 2N3904		40V, 200mA, NPN	U2	IR2125		High Side Driver	
Q6	2N3904		40V, 200mA, NPN	U3	MC145	55BCP	Binary to 1-of-4	
Q7	2N3904		40V, 200mA, NPN				Decoder	
<u> </u>	_,,,,,,,,			U4	LM358I	V	Operational Amplif	ier

MEASUREMENT RESULTS

Checking Out The Circuit

To safely bring the circuit into operation, the following precautions shall be exercised to prevent catastrophic failures at the first turn on. Use sockets for all integrated circuits and do not plug them in until the auxiliary power supply is checked.

All voltages given in the rest of this chapter are with respect to circuit ground unless otherwise noted.

Step 1.

Connect the input of the circuit to your DC power source. Increase the input voltage slowly up to the minimum input voltage value used in Table 2. Check the auxiliary supply voltage at the test point, TP21. The correct value should be 0.7V less than the V_Z voltage listed in Table 4, approximately 14.3V for this example. The same voltage should be measured at pin 4 of U4, pin 1 of U2 and pin 8 of U4 integrated circuits. When all voltages are correct, remove the input power.

Step 2.

Install U1, and connect the input voltage again. Measure the reference voltage of the UC3909. The correct voltage on pin 2 (TP2) is 5V. Next, check the oscillator. Measure and compare the timing capacitor and output waveforms, TP19 and TP5 respectively, to the oscillogram shown in Figure 5.

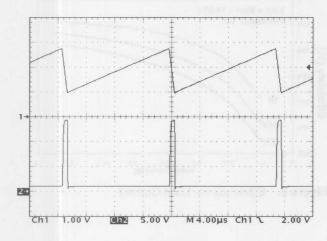


Figure 5. Trace 1: Timing Capacitor Waveform; Trace 2: OUT pin of UC3909

Compare the operating frequency to the expected value listed in Table 2. Disconnect the input voltage.

Step 3

Populate the remaining of the IC sockets, by installing U2, U3, and U4 integrated circuits. Connect a resistive load to the output terminals. The load resistor shall be calculated as:

$$R_{LOAD} = \frac{2 \cdot V_{BAT}}{I_{OCT}}$$

Slowly raise the input voltage of the circuit while continuously monitoring the output voltage. The output voltage shall increase together with the input voltage until the output equals the float voltage, V_{BAT}. For further increases of the input voltage, the output should be regulated at the float charge voltage. If the output is not regulating, stop increasing the input voltage. Check the component values in the feedback divider, and the operating conditions of the UC3909. Convenient test points are provided in the demonstration board, for easy access to the pins of the integrated controller. The descriptions and typical voltages of the individual pins are included in the datasheet of the UC3909.

Step 4.

Once the output voltage is stabilized, check the switching waveforms of the converter. Typical waveforms of gate drive (U2/pin2), Q1 drain current, TP24, and the output inductor current, measured at full load, are shown in Figure 6.

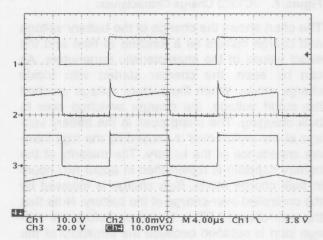


Figure 6. Switching waveforms of the converter: Trace 1: OUT pin; Trace 2: I_{o1} (1A/div); Trace 3: TP24; Trace 4: I_i (0.5A/div)

Step 5.

The final test of the circuit is to check the bulk charge current limit, the float and over-charge voltage levels. The load resistor defined in step 2 ensures float mode operation of the charger. Note the float voltage then gradually increase the load current until the charger reverts to bulk charge mode. At this point the output current should be equal to I_{BULK} . By slowly reducing the load current, the charger will sequence to the next state, overcharging. In this mode of operation the output voltage equals to $V_{\text{BAT,MAX}}$, the over-charge voltage. Verify the numbers against the values in Table 1.

Charge Characteristic

The ultimate test of the circuit is to charge a battery. The demonstration circuit has been designed to charge a 12V, 2.2Ah sealed lead-acid battery. During the charge cycle, the battery voltage and current, and the displayed operating states have been recorded. The result is shown in Figure 7.

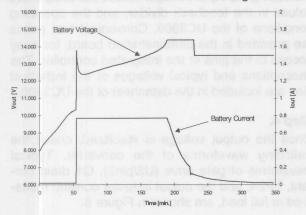


Figure 7. JC1222 Charge Characteristic

The chart shows the change of the battery voltage and charge current as a function of time and the exact values of the characteristic parameters. As can be seen, the charger started with trickle charge mode. When the battery voltage reached the cutoff voltage, the charger switched over to bulk charging. The sharp peak in the battery voltage at the switch over is caused by the high internal impedance of the battery. The majority of the battery capacity is replenished in about two hours in bulk charge mode. Bulk charge is followed by the controlled over-charge of the battery. Note that the over-charge LED is turned on before the voltage loop is satisfied because the threshold of the voltage sense comparator is intentionally set 5% below the reference of the voltage error amplifier. This way, the turn on of the over-charge LED coincides with the onset of the chemical over-charge process indicated by the gradient change in the voltage curve. The battery charging process concludes in float mode when the current tapers off to near zero.

Efficiency

The efficiency of a converter is usually measured as a function of load current at a fixed output voltage and at different input voltages. While this method is really informative in DC-to-DC applications, it is very difficult to assess the efficiency of a battery charger this way. Since the load current and the output voltage of the converter vary continuously during charging, one single efficiency number carries very little information about the circuit.

To demonstrate the effect, three different efficiency graphs are given below. The first one shows the effect of the output voltage variation on the efficiency. The second one is the traditional efficiency chart at a fixed output voltage.

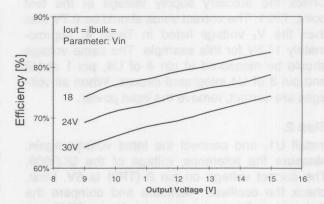


Figure 8. Efficiency vs. Output Voltage

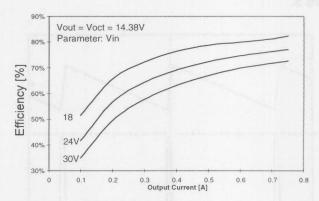


Figure 9. Efficiency vs. Load Current

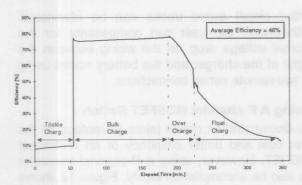


Figure 10. Efficiency vs. Time During Battery
Charging

The third one presents the efficiencies during the entire charge cycle and the calculated average efficiency of the battery charger.

The typical efficiency of the demonstration circuit at full load with resistive load is 80%. This figure is useful for heatsink selection, and for comparison purposes.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Current Sense Issues

One of the most critical decisions of the design is how and where to sense the current in the converter. Using current mode control mandates sensing the current during the on-time of the switch Q1. In addition, when precise control of the output current is necessary, knowing the exact output current is inescapable. The output current of the buck converter equals the output inductor current, leaving very little choice to the designer. There are only two locations in the circuit, where the inductor current can be sensed accurately.

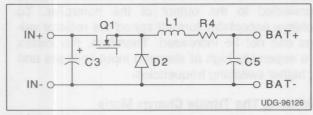


Figure 11. High side current sense technique

One possibility is the so called high side sensing, where the current sense resistor is placed in series with the output inductor as shown in Figure 11. For reliable operation it is important to put the resistor at the output capacitor side of the inductor, to avoid having a large switching component added to the inherently small current sense signal. Even with this precaution taken into account, the signal sits on top of a large common mode DC

voltage (appr. V_{BAT}) which represents a problem for the current sense amplifier.

The amplifier has a limited Common Mode Input Voltage Range and a finite Common Mode Rejection Ratio which both confine its capability and its precision when the measured signal contains a significant common mode component. To illustrate the problem, look at the demonstration circuit.

When the battery is close to its fully charged state the current signal is superimposed on a 16V DC signal. At the same time, the supply voltage of the UC3909 is approximately 14.5V. In this case the Common Mode Input Voltage Range of the current sense amplifier is exceeded and the current information is either lost or erroneous. The problem could be addressed by providing a higher supply voltage for the controller but, since VCC is also limited, the problem is just shifted to a higher voltage level.

The other difficulty, related to the finite Common Mode Rejection Ratio, arises at light load. Even if the current signal is kept within the common mode input voltage range sensing small differential voltages are difficult. For instance, the bulk current of the battery charger causes the maximum allowable 350mV voltage drop across the current sense resistor. The trickle charge current is 1% of that current providing only 3.5mV useful signal for the amplifier. Assume that the output voltage is 10V and the CMRR of the current sense circuit is 60dB. There will be two components determining the output voltage of the amplifier. The amplified current signal, 17.5mV, is added to a 10mV error signal, developed from the 10V common mode components, present at the inverting and noninverting inputs of the current sense amplifier. As demonstrated, the error caused by the common mode component is rather significant, it is in the order of 35%.

The other possibility to monitor the inductor current is in the ground return path, as it is done in the demonstration circuit. This solution eliminates both problems related to the common mode properties of the amplifier since one end of the current sense resistor is actually grounded. The disadvantage of this technique is that the input and output grounds of the charger are not the same potential any more.

The low side current sensing offers two places for grounding the controller. The GND pin of the UC3909 can be connected either to the output side of the current sense resistor, or to its node

common to the input of the buck regulator. When the IC is grounded at the output side, the output voltage is regulated perfectly. On the other hand the supply current of the UC3909 has to flow through the current sense resistor causing an error in the current measurement. The ICC of the controller has a wide tolerance which made the design of the trickle charge current very inaccurate.

Finally, the solution used in the demonstration circuit grounds the controller to the input side of the current sense resistor. It gives the best result to closely control the currents from no load to full current. The only factor influencing the accuracy of the current measurement is the input offset voltage of the current sense amplifier.

Until now, the effect of the current sense amplifier was neglected. Note that this offset is not specific to the low side sensing technique, and it would have further deteriorated the accuracy of any previously mentioned current sense method.

The current sense amplifier of the UC3909 possesses a 15mV maximum input offset voltage. This 15mV is comparable to the current signal in trickle charge mode. This explains the rather loose tolerance of the trickle charge current limit, mentioned earlier in the design chapter.

Although this approach exhibits the optimum properties to control the output current, it introduced a problem for the voltage regulation. Since the regulated voltage appears between the positive output terminal and the circuit ground, the output of the battery charger is not tightly controlled. The error is caused by the voltage drop across R4, proportional to the output current. At full current, at the beginning of the over-charge period the output voltage will be 350mV lower than the calculated over-charge voltage level, and as the current tapers off the error is diminishing. In float charge mode the output current, hence the voltage deviation from the designed value is negligible.

Differential Voltage Sense Advantages

By using the two inputs of the differential amplifier stage, the output voltage can be regulated between any two points of the output, independently from the grounding of the controller. When the two inputs are connected to the solder joints of the output connector, the effect of resistive voltage drops across the current sense resistor and on the

printed circuit board traces can be eliminated. Furthermore, the user can compensate for the external voltage drop on the wiring between the output of the charger and the battery nodes using the two remote sense connections.

Driving A P-channel MOSFET Switch

The demonstration circuit takes advantage of the lower cost and better efficiency of an N-channel MOSFET. However, using a P-channel transistor can also be accomplished easily. Figure 12 shows a possible implementation of the P-channel MOSFET switch, driven by the UC3909.

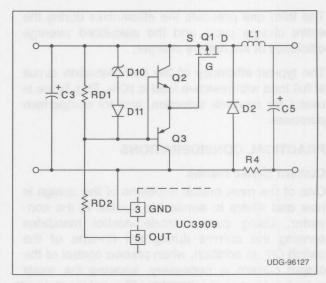


Figure 12. P-channel MOSFET Drive

The disadvantage of this technique is the relatively high power loss in the level shift circuit. The switching speed of the high side P-channel MOSFET is determined by the two series resistors connected to the output of the controller. To achieve acceptable turn-off speed the resistor values can not be increased. Therefore, the losses are especially high at elevated input voltages and at higher switching frequencies.

Skipping The Trickle Charge Mode

Depending on the battery type and the application, the trickle charge mode might not be necessary. Particularly, the new lead-acid batteries built from pure lead plates can accept full charge current from the beginning of the charge cycle. This requirement can be effortlessly accommodated by the UC3909 as shown in Figure 13.

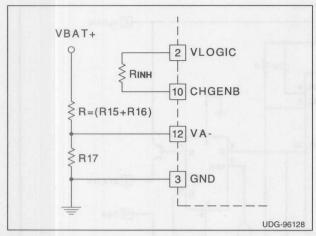


Figure 13. Inhibiting The Trickle Charge Mode

The trickle charge mode is inhibited when the CHGENB pin is connected to the VLOGIC pin of the IC. In this case, the charger will deliver full current, independently from the initial voltage of the battery, until it sequences to over-charge.

Soft-Start

Particularly when the trickle charge mode is eliminated, soft-start of the converter might be desirable. Usually, closed loop soft-start is achieved by gradually increasing the reference voltage of the voltage error amplifier. Open loop soft-start can be implemented by clamping the output of the voltage error amplifier. None of these practices are useful in the battery charger circuit for two reasons. The first obstacle is that the temperature compensated reference of the error amplifier is not available for external manipulations. The second problem is that the battery is already connected at turn on.

Since the battery is discharged at the beginning of the charging process, the voltage error amplifier is saturated and the converter operates in current limited mode. Therefore, soft-start can be introduced only in the current control loop. In general purpose buck converters this would result in output voltage overshoot during start-up, but with the battery connected to the output, this problem does not exist. The following circuit, shown in Figure 14 can be added to provide a simple soft-start solution for the battery charger.

The output current of the buck converter will ramp up gradually to the full bulk current value according to the RC time constant in Figure 14. This solution requires extreme cautions to ensure that precharging of the bootstrap capacitor is accomplished well before the charging of the soft-start capacitor is complete.

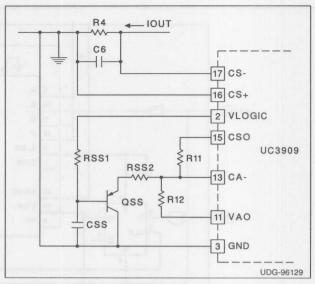


Figure 14. Soft-Start Of The UC3909

Eliminate Float Charge

The majority of the applications use the lead-acid batteries as backup power sources. In case of losing the primary power source, the system relies on the availability of the entire battery capacity. The float mode operation of the battery charger is intended to ensure that the battery is in its fully charged state during the stand by period.

As was mentioned earlier, finding the appropriate float voltage is critical to maintain 100% capacity of the battery. An easy way to avoid the problems related to float charge is to terminate the charging process upon completion of the over-charge process.

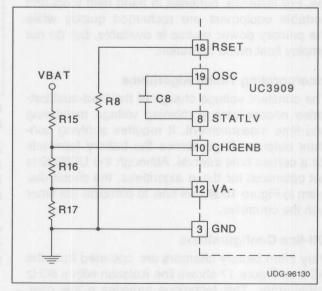


Figure 15. Disabling Float Charge State

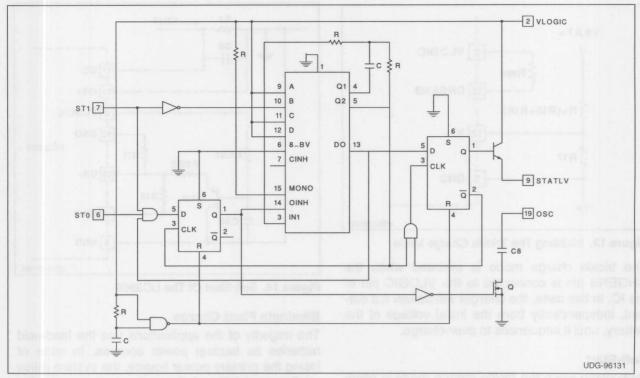


Figure 16. Implementing The Timed Charge Method

The solution shown in Figure 15 eliminates the float mode operation by disabling the oscillator. The advantage of this approach is that the IC will recover to bulk charge mode automatically if the battery voltage drops 10% below its nominal float voltage value.

Note that there are numerous other applications which also do not require float charging the batteries. For instance, batteries in hand held tools and portable equipment are recharged quickly while the primary power source is available, but do not employ float mode operation.

Incorporating Timed Algorithms

The constant voltage charge of the lead-acid batteries necessitates combining voltage monitoring and time measurement. It requires applying constant output voltage across the battery terminals for a certain time interval. Although the UC3909 is not optimized for these algorithms, the circuit diagram in Figure 16 shows how to combine the timer with the controller.

Off-line Configurations

Very often battery chargers are operated from the AC line. Figure 17 shows line isolation with a 60Hz transformer. This technique provides a low cost,

competitive solution for low power applications. Furthermore, it can be advantageous for medium power, stationary applications because of its simplicity.

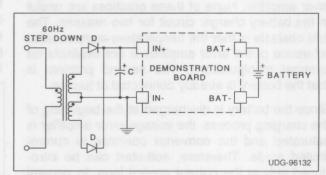


Figure 17. Isolated Off-Line Charger With 60Hz Step-Down Transformer

At higher output power, or in portable applications, the 60Hz isolation transformers become bulky. In this situation, line isolation is frequently obtained in the switchmode power stage. The forward converter, shown in Figure 18 is the isolated version of the buck topology. The components of the demonstration circuit can be easily recognized in the schematic drawing.

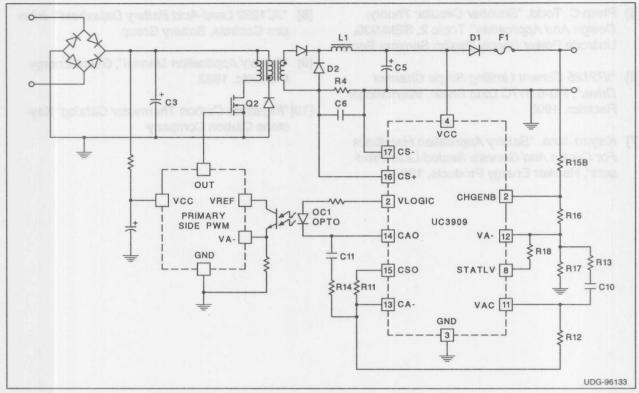


Figure 17. Forward Converter With Line Isolation

SUMMARY

This Application Note introduced the UC3909 Switchmode Lead-Acid Battery Charger controller in detail. A step-by-step design procedure of a buck converter, optimized for battery charger applications has been derived. Complete part list, and measurement results of the demonstration circuit complements the paper. Useful practical considerations are also given to help better understanding the various trade-offs involved in the battery charger design.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Unitrode offers additional support to your battery charger project. The Appendix contains the Math-Cad® design file used to perform all calculations for Table 1 - 4. In addition, a printed circuit board of the fully functional battery charger circuit, useful upto 4A of continuos charge current is available for further evaluation.

For more information on the UC3909 Switchmode Lead-Acid Battery Charger controller or to order the demonstration circuit, please contact your Unitrode representative or the factory directly at (603) 424-2410.

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APPENDIX

This MathCad file calculates the parameters and part values of the UC3909 Switchmode Lead-Acid Battery Charger demonstration circuit.

NOTES:

- names ending to an "E" (i.e. R1E) are results of the respective calculations and they require manual entry of standard component values before continuing the calculations.

TABLE 1.

Input parameters:

NC := 6	Number of cells connected in series within the battery.
Cr := 2.2	Capacity of the battery.
Vc := 2.275	Cell float voltage at 25°C.
Vcmax := 2.43	Maximum cell voltage during controlled over-charge at 25°C.
Vcmin := 1.75	Minimum cell voltage at full discharge on 25°C.
It := 0	Trickle charge current. Enter the data from the battery datasheet or 0 for the default value (ltrickle=0.01*Cr).
Ib = 0.8	Bulk charge current. Enter the data from the battery datasheet or 0 for the default value (lbulk=0.5*Cr).
Io = 0	Over-charge taper current threshold. Enter the data from the battery datasheet or 0 for the default value (loct=0.25*lbulk).
TC := - 0.0039	Battery Temperature coefficient.
Tmin := - 10	Minimum operating temperature of the battery.
Tmax := 50	Maximum operating temperature of the battery.

Calculated paprameters:

Equations:

$Itrickle := if(It=0,0.01 \cdot Cr,It) \qquad Itrickle = 0.022$ $Ibulk := if(Ib=0,0.4 \cdot Cr,Ib) \qquad Ibulk = 0.8$ $Ioct := if(Io=0,0.25 \cdot Ibulk,Io) \qquad Ioct = 0.2$ $Vbat := Vc \cdot NC \qquad Vbat = 13.65$ $Vbatmin = (Vcmin + (Tmax - 25) \cdot TC) \cdot NC \qquad Vbatmin = 9.915$ $Vbatmax = (Vcmax + (Tmin - 25) \cdot TC) \cdot NC \qquad Vbatmax = 15.399$ $Pchmax := Vbatmax \cdot Ibulk \qquad Pchmax = 12.319$

TABLE 2.

Input parameters:

Vinmin := 18 Minimum input voltage of the battery charger.

Vinmax := 30Maximum input voltage of the battery charger.

fs = 50000 Switching frequency of the converter.

Vd1f := 0.59Forward voltage drop of D1 at Ibulk and 100°C junction

temperature.

Vd2f := 0.73Forward voltage drop of D2 at Ibulk and 100°C junction

temperature.

Equations:

Calculated paprameters:

Calculated paprameters:

Vbatmax + Vd1f + Vd2f Dmax = 0.893Vinmin + Vd2f

Vbatmin + Vd1f + Vd2fDmin := Dmin = 0.366Vinmax + Vd2f

TABLE 3.

Input parameters:

 $trr := 35 \cdot 10^{-9}$ Reverse recovery time of D2 at Ibulk (estimate).

Irrm := 0.5 Peak reverse recovery current of D2 (estimate).

Rdson = 0.2Channel resistance of Q1 at 25°C (the catalog data).

Coss := $160 \cdot 10^{-12}$ Q1 drain source capacitance.

Igate := 0.8 Average gate current during turning on and off Q1.

 $Qgs := 3.1 \cdot 10^{-9}$ Gate-to-source charge of Q1.

Qgd := $5.8 \cdot 10^{-9}$ Gate-to-drain charge of Q1.

Equations:

VrmmD1 = 1.5·Vbatmax VrmmD1 = 23.099

 $IminD1 := 2 \cdot Ibulk$ IminD1 = 1.6

Pd1 := Ibulk · Vd1f Pd1 = 0.472

VrmmD2 = 1.5·Vinmax VrmmD2 = 45

IminD2 := 2. Ibulk IminD2 = 1.6

If1 := 1.25 · Ibulk

Pd2 := Ibulk·(1 – Dmin)·Vd2f + 0.25·Irrm·V	Vinmax·trr·fs	Pd2 = 0.377
VdssQ1 := 1.5·Vinmax	VdssQ1 = 45	
Idmin := 4·Ibulk		Idmin = 3.2
tonoff := $\frac{Qgs + Qgd}{Igate}$		tonoff = 1.113•10
$Pq1 := (Ibulk)^{2} \cdot Dmax \cdot Rdson \cdot 1.5 + 0.5 \cdot Coss$	$s \cdot (Vinmax)^2 \cdot fs + \frac{Vinmax \cdot Ibulk}{2} \cdot (Vinmax \cdot Ibulk)$	$(2 \cdot \text{tonoff} + \text{trr}) \cdot \text{fs}$ Pq1 = 0.209
Phs := Pd1 + Pd2 + Pq1		Phs = 1.058
$dImax := 0.4 \cdot Ibulk$		dImax = 0.32
$L1E := \frac{\text{Vinmax}}{4 \cdot \text{dImax} \cdot \text{fs}}$	$L1E = 4.687 \cdot 10^{-4}$	L1 := $400 \cdot 10^{-6}$
$IL1peak := Ibulk + \frac{Vinmax}{8 \cdot L1 \cdot fs}$		IL1peak = 0.988
Vc3 := 1.5·Vinmax		Vc3 = 45
Ic3rms := 0.5·Ibulk		Ic3rms = 0.4
Vc5 := 1.5·Vbatmax		Vc5 = 23.099
Ic5rms := Vinmax		Ic5rms = 0.108
$\sqrt{192 \cdot \text{fs} \cdot \text{L1}}$		
Psn := 0.015·Pchmax		Psn = 0.185
Vc4 := 1.5·Vinmax		Vc4 = 45
$C4E := \frac{2 \cdot Psn}{\left(Vinmax\right)^2 \cdot fs}$	$C4E = 8.213 \cdot 10^{-9}$	$C4 := 10 \cdot 10^{-9}$
$R3E := \frac{1}{16 \cdot \pi \cdot fs \cdot C4}$	R3E = 39.789	R3 := 39
Pr4max := 0.015·Pchmax		Pr4max = 0.185
R4E1 = $\frac{0.35}{\text{IL1peak}}$ R4E1 = 0.354	$R4E2 := \frac{Pr4max}{(Ibulk)^2}$	R4E2 = 0.289
R4E := if(R4E1>R4E2,R4E2,R4E1)	R4E = 0.289	R4 := 0.27
$Pr4rated := (Ibulk)^2 \cdot R4.5$		Pr4rated = 0.864
Tonye Ira		Later Attended in

If 1 = 1

TABLE 4.

Input parameters:

Vref := 2.3

Vlogic = 5

Vz := 15

Ifbmax := $150 \cdot 10^{-6}$

Ae := $\frac{30}{91}$

 $C8 = 1.5 \cdot 10^{-9}$

 $C5 := 470 \cdot 10^{-6}$

Rc5esr := $65 \cdot 10^{-3}$

 $R9 := 100 \cdot 10^3$

f0 = 1000

Internal reference voltage of the UC3909.

The voltage on the VLOGIC pin of the UC3909.

Zener voltage of D3.

Maximum current of the voltage feedback divider. This current

always loads the battery.

Guess value of the gain (A) of the voltage sense amplifier.

Timing capacitor value.

Output capacitor value.

Equivalent series resistance of the output capacitor, C5.

Free parameter.

Voltage loop cross-over frequency.

Equations:

$VceoQ3 := 1.5 \cdot (Vinmax - Vz)$

 $R1E := \frac{Vinmin - Vz}{0.002}$

 $Pr1 := \frac{(Vinmax - Vz)^2}{R1}$

 $R24E := \frac{Vbat}{Ifbmax}$

R28 := 0.001 · R24

R25E := Ae·R24

 $A = \frac{R25}{R24 + R28}$

 $R8E := \frac{1}{1.2 \cdot C8 \cdot fs}$

R10E = 1.8518 · Ioct · R4 · R9

R11E = 43.4783·Itrickle·R4·R8

 $R12E := \frac{0.54 \cdot R11}{Ibulk \cdot R4}$

Calculated paprameters:

VceoQ3 = 22.5

 $R1E = 1.5 \cdot 10^3$

R1 := 1500

Pr1 = 0.15

 $R24E = 9.1 \cdot 10^4$

 $R24 := 91 \cdot 10^3$

R28 = 91

 $R25E = 3 \cdot 10^4$

 $R25 := 30 \cdot 10^3$

A = 0.329

 $R8E = 1.111 \cdot 10^4$

R8 = 11000

 $R10E = 1 \cdot 10^4$

R10 := 10000

 $R11E = 2.841 \cdot 10^3$

R11 = 2700

 $R12E = 6.75 \cdot 10^3$

R12 = 6800

R15E = $Vcmax \cdot \frac{Vcmin \cdot A \cdot NC - Vref}{Ifbmax \cdot Vcmin}$	$R15E = 1.072 \cdot 10^4$	R15 := 11000		
$R16E := \frac{Vref}{Ifbmax} \cdot \frac{Vcmax - Vcmin}{Vcmin}$	$R16E = 5.958 \cdot 10^3$	R16 := 6200		
R17E = $\frac{\text{Vref}}{\text{Ifbmax}} \cdot \frac{\text{Vcmax} \cdot \text{A} \cdot \text{NC} - \text{Vref}}{\text{Vc} \cdot \text{A} \cdot \text{NC} - \text{Vref}}$	$R17E = 1.747 \cdot 10^4$	R17 := 18000		
R18E := $\frac{\text{Vref}}{\text{Ifbmax}} \cdot \frac{\text{Vcmax} \cdot \text{A} \cdot \text{NC} - \text{Vref}}{(\text{Vcmax} - \text{Vc}) \cdot \text{A} \cdot \text{NC}}$	$R18E = 1.252 \cdot 10^5$	R18 := 130000		
$R14E := \frac{0.28 \cdot fs \cdot L1}{Vbatmax + Vd1f + Vd2f} \cdot \frac{R11}{R4}$	$R14E = 3.349 \cdot 10^3$	R14 := 3300		
C12E := $\frac{1}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot \text{fs} \cdot \text{R}14}$	$C12E = 9.646 \cdot 10^{-10}$	C12 := $1000 \cdot 10^{-12}$		
C11 := 10·C12		$C11 = 1 \cdot 10^{-8}$		
R13E := $\frac{0.625 \cdot \text{Vinmax}}{\text{A} \cdot \text{Ibulk} \cdot \text{fs} \cdot \text{L1} \cdot \text{Vbatmax}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{1 + \left(16 \cdot \pi \cdot \text{f0} \cdot \text{fs} \cdot \text{L1} \cdot \text{C5} \cdot \frac{\text{Vbatmax}}{\text{Vinmax}}\right)^{2}}{1 + \left(2 \cdot \pi \cdot \text{f0} \cdot \text{Rc5esr} \cdot \text{C5}\right)^{2}}} \cdot (\text{R15} + \text{R16})$				
	$R13E = 9.466 \cdot 10^5$	$R13 := 910 \cdot 10^3$		
$C9E := \frac{C5 \cdot Rc5esr}{R13}$	$C9E = 3.357 \cdot 10^{-11}$	$C9 := 33 \cdot 10^{-12}$		
C10E = $\frac{\text{C5.Vbatmax}}{\text{R13.Vinmax}} \cdot 8 \cdot \text{fs.L1}$	$C10E = 4.242 \cdot 10^{-8}$	$C10 := 47 \cdot 10^{-9}$		
R6E := $\frac{\text{Vlogic} - 0.7}{0.01}$	R6E = 430	R6 := 430		
$R5E := \frac{Vinmin - 7}{0.01}$	$R5E = 1.1 \cdot 10^3$	R5 := 1100		

UNITRODE

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H13E=9.486-10° R13 -010-10° CSE=3337-10° 12

064 - 59 064 - 509

C30E C5-Vindence S-B-L1
R3E Vindence 0.7
0.07
R5E Vinden 7
0.01